Collection Summary

Title: Henry Prather Fletcher Papers
Span Dates: 1898-1958
ID No.: MSS20818
Creator: Fletcher, Henry Prather, 1873-1959
Extent: 6,600 items
Extent: 29 containers
Extent: 10.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mnm78020818
Summary: Diplomat. Correspondence, diary, letterbook, speeches and articles, scrapbook, clippings, memorabilia, photographs, and other papers documenting Fletcher's career from his enlistment in the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War through his service as a special adviser to the secretary of state on post-World War II problems and plans.

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
Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Fletcher, Beatrice Bend, -1941--Correspondence.
Fletcher, Henry Prather, 1873-1959.
Grew, Joseph C. (Joseph Clark), 1880-1965--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1938--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937--Correspondence.
Knox, Frank, 1874-1944--Correspondence.
Landon, Alfred M. (Alfred Mossman), 1887-1987--Correspondence.
Lansing, Robert, 1864-1928--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947--Correspondence.
Mussolini, Benito, 1883-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Straight, Willard Dickerman, 1880-1918--Correspondence.
Taft, Robert A. (Robert Alphonso), 1889-1953--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

Organizations
International American Conference (5th : 1923 : Santiago, Chile)
International American Conference (6th : 1928 : Havana, Cuba)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )
United States. Army--History--Spanish-American War, 1898.
United States. Army. Volunteer Cavalry, 1st.
United States. Department of State.

Subjects
Diplomatic and consular service, American.
Pan-Americanism.
Reconstruction (1939-1951)
Spanish-American War, 1898.
World War, 1939-1945.

Places
Belgium--Foreign relations--United States.
Chile--Foreign relations--United States.
China--Foreign relations--United States.
Cuba--Foreign relations--United States.
Italy--Foreign relations--United States.
Mexico--Foreign relations--United States.
Portugal--Foreign relations--United States.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Foreign relations--Belgium.
United States--Foreign relations--Chile.
United States--Foreign relations--China.
United States--Foreign relations--Cuba.
United States--Foreign relations--Italy.
United States--Foreign relations--Mexico.
United States--Foreign relations--Portugal.
United States--Politics and government--1945-

Occupations
Diplomats.

Provenance
The papers of Henry Prather Fletcher, diplomat, were bequeathed to the Library of Congress in 1960 and received in 1960 and 1966.

Processing History
The Henry Prather Fletcher Papers were processed in 1961 and expanded in 1966. Formerly classified material was made available in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

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

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Henry Prather Fletcher 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, Henry Prather Fletcher Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Biographical Note

Date | Event
--- | ---
1873, Apr. 10 | Born, Greencastle, Pa.
1894 | Admitted to bar
1898-1899 | Enlisted in Troop K, 1st United States Cavalry Volunteers (Rough Riders); served in Cuban campaign
1899-1901 | Served in regular army in Philippines, first lieutenant and battalion adjutant, Fortieth United States Volunteer Infantry
1902-1903 | Second secretary, American legation, Havana, Cuba
1903-1905 | Second secretary, American legation, Peking, China, serving under Edwin H. Conger
1905-1907 | First secretary, American legation, Lisbon, Portugal
1907-1909 | First secretary, American legation, Peking, China, serving under W. W. Rockhill
1907-1910 | Charge d'affaires, Peking, China
1914-1916 | Ambassador to Chile
1916-1920 | Ambassador to Mexico
1921-1922 | Under secretary of state
1923 | Chairman, United States Delegation, Fifth Pan-American Conference, Santiago, Chile
1924-1929 | Ambassador to Italy
1928 | Delegate, Sixth Pan-American Conference, Havana, Cuba
1929 | Member, Special commission to Investigate and Report on Conditions in Haiti
1930-1931 | Chairman, United States Tariff Commission
1934-1936 | Chairman, Republican National Committee
1936-1944 | General counsel, Republican National Committee, and member of Executive Committee
1944-1945 | Special adviser to secretary of state
1959, July 10 | Died, New York, N.Y

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Prather Fletcher (1873-1959) span the years 1898-1958. The collection includes include a diary, letterbook, special and general correspondence, speeches and articles, a scrapbook, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other printed matter. The collection is organized into eight series: Diary , Special Correspondence and Letterbook , General Correspondence , Speeches and Articles , Miscellany , Printed Matter , Additional Scrapbooks , and Declassified Documents.

General Correspondence constitutes the bulk of the collection and covers the span of Fletcher's career from the time of his enlistment in the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War through his service as a special adviser to the secretary of state on post-World War II problems and plans. The relatively small amount of correspondence after the war deals chiefly with the affairs of the Republican Party.

The period 1902-1929, when Fletcher served in the foreign service at such varied posts as Havana, Peking, Lisbon, Santiago, Mexico City, Brussels, and Rome, is amply represented by correspondence that is of interest not only because it treats with the foreign relations of the United States, but also for the manner in which it traces Fletcher's rise from second secretary of the American legation at Havana to the post of ambassador to Italy during the early years of Benito Mussolini. There is also correspondence relating to Fletcher's term as under secretary of state, 1921-1922, and his participation in the fifth and sixth International American Conferences.

The Special Correspondence and Letterbook series includes letters to his wife, Beatrice Bend Fletcher, and from Senator and then President Warren G. Harding. In the General Correspondence file are letters from William Jennings Bryan, Calvin Coolidge, Joseph C. Grew, Herbert Hoover, Edward Mandell House, Charles Evans Hughes, Frank B. Kellogg, Robert Lansing, Henry Cabot Lodge, John Bassett Moore, Benito Mussolini, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Willard Dickerman Straight, and William H. Taft. Frank Knox, Alfred M. Landon, and Robert A. Taft are among those represented in the period of Fletcher's active participation in Republican affairs after his foreign service.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in eight series:

- Diary, 1915, 1925-1926
- Special Correspondence and Letterbook, 1898-1939
- General Correspondence, 1898-1958
- Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949
- Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950
- Printed Matter
- Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940
- Declassified Documents, 1944
### Description of Series

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<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Diary, 1915, 1925-1926</strong></td>
<td>One volume of diary entries.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><strong>Special Correspondence and Letterbook, 1898-1939</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence with Fletcher’s wife and with Warren G. Harding. Also a letterbook filed separately. The correspondence is arranged by name of correspondent</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2-17</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence, 1898-1958</strong></td>
<td>Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 18</td>
<td><strong>Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949</strong></td>
<td>Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of drafts of speeches, articles, remarks, and press releases. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 19-21</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950</strong></td>
<td>Financial records, lists, charts, excerpts, notes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, cards, invitations, passport, photographs, a scrapbook, and unpublished verse. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 22</td>
<td><strong>Printed Matter</strong></td>
<td>Bulletins, reports, studies, pamphlets, articles, and books. No arrangement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 23-28</td>
<td><strong>Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940</strong></td>
<td>Bound volumes of correspondence, telegrams, newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, and souvenirs. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
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<td>BOX 29</td>
<td><strong>Declassified Documents, 1944</strong></td>
<td>Formerly government-security classified reports, correspondence, and minutes. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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The correspondence is arranged by name of correspondent |
| BOX 1     | Fletcher, Beatrice Bend Fletcher (wife), 1918-1939, undated |
| BOX 1     | Harding, Warren G., 1920-1923 |
| BOX 1     | Letterbook, 1898-1899 |
| BOX 2-17  | General Correspondence, 1898-1958  
Letters sent and received.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 2     | 1898-1909 |
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| BOX 17    | 1941-1958, undated |
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Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949

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| BOX 19-21 | **Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950**
Financial records, lists, charts, excerpts, notes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, cards, invitations, passport, photographs, a scrapbook, and unpublished verse.
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 19    | Financial records |
| BOX 19    | General miscellany |
| BOX 19    | Memorabilia |
| BOX 19    | Newspaper clippings |
| BOX 20    | Newspaper clippings |
| BOX 20    | Personal miscellany |
| BOX 20    | Photographs |
| BOX 21    | Scrapbook, 1907-1915 |
| BOX 21    | Verse |
| BOX 22    | **Printed Matter**
Bulletins, reports, studies, pamphlets, articles, and books.
No arrangement. |
| BOX 22    | Miscellaneous printed matter |
| BOX 23-28 | **Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940**
Bound volumes of correspondence, telegrams, newspaper clippings, photographs, programs, and souvenirs.
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 23    | 1917-1921 |
| BOX 24    | 1921-1922 |
| BOX 25    | 1923-1928 |
| BOX 26    | 1928-1930 |
| BOX 27    | 1930-1934 |
| BOX 28    | 1934-1940 |
| BOX 29    | **Declassified Documents, 1944**
Formerly government-security classified reports, correspondence, and minutes.
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 29    | Conversations, minutes, and documents, 22 Aug.-2 Oct. 1944 |
| BOX 29    | General, 23 Aug.-27 Nov. 1944, undated |
| BOX 29    | Official texts |