

**Henry Prather Fletcher Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78020818>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms012198>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013  
Revised 2023 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Henry Prather Fletcher Papers

**Inclusive 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/mmm78020818>

**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.  
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923--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.

## **Acquisition Information**

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 by John J. McDonough in 1961 and expanded in 1966. Formerly classified material was made available in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2012. The finding aid was updated in 2023 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 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

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charts, excerpts, notes, memorabilia, newspaper clippings, cards, invitations, passport, photographs, a scrapbook, and unpublished verse.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

# Container List

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Diary, 1915, 1925-1926</b> One volume of diary entries.
<b>BOX 1</b>	1915, 1925-1926
<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Special Correspondence and Letterbook, 1898-1939</b> Correspondence with Fletcher's wife, Beatrice Bend Fletcher, and with Warren G. Harding. Also a letterbook filed separately. The correspondence is arranged by name of correspondent
<b>BOX 1</b>	Fletcher, Beatrice Bend (wife), 1918-1939, undated
<b>BOX 1</b>	Harding, Warren G., 1920-1923
<b>BOX 1</b>	Letterbook, 1898-1899
<b>BOX 2-17</b>	<b>General Correspondence, 1898-1958</b> Letters sent and received. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 2</b>	1898-1909
<b>BOX 3</b>	1910-1915
<b>BOX 4</b>	Oct. 1916-1917
<b>BOX 5</b>	Nov. 1917-1918
<b>BOX 6</b>	Dec. 1918-June 1919
<b>BOX 7</b>	July-Dec. 1919
<b>BOX 8</b>	Jan. 1920-May 1922
<b>BOX 9</b>	June 1922-Jan. 1923
<b>BOX 10</b>	Jan.-Nov. 1923
<b>BOX 11</b>	Dec. 1923-Nov. 1924
<b>BOX 12</b>	Dec. 1924-May 1926
<b>BOX 13</b>	June 1926-Aug. 1927
<b>BOX 14</b>	Sept. 1927-Dec. 1928
<b>BOX 15</b>	1929-1933
<b>BOX 16</b>	1934-1940
<b>BOX 17</b>	1941-1958, undated
<b>BOX 18</b>	<b>Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949</b> Handwritten, typewritten, near-print, and printed copies of drafts of speeches, articles, remarks, and press releases. Arranged chronologically.

## Speeches and Articles, 1902-1949

Container	Contents
BOX 18	1902-1949, undated
BOX 19-21	<b>Miscellany, 1898-circa 1950</b> 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	<b>Printed Matter</b> Bulletins, reports, studies, pamphlets, articles, and books. No arrangement.
BOX 22	Miscellaneous printed matter
BOX 23-28	<b>Additional Scrapbooks, 1917-1940</b> 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	<b>Declassified Documents, 1944</b> 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