

John Purroy Mitchel Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78033084>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms013068>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

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Collection Summary

Title: John Purroy Mitchel Papers

Span Dates: 1835-1932

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1892-1918)

ID No.: MSS33084

Creator: Mitchel, John Purroy, 1874-1932

Extent: 27,000 items

Extent: 71 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 28.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78033084>

Summary: Soldier, lawyer, and mayor of New York, N.Y. Correspondence, desk diaries, speeches, articles, press releases, notebooks, memorabilia, and scrapbooks relating primarily to Mitchel's administrations as counselor and mayor of New York City.

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

Balfour, Arthur James, 1848-1930--Correspondence.
Belmont, August, Jr., 1853-1924--Correspondence.
Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.
Choate, Joseph Hodges, 1832-1917--Correspondence.
Hand, Learned, 1872-1961--Correspondence.
Hapgood, Norman, 1868-1937--Correspondence.
Herrick, Myron T. (Myron Timothy), 1854-1929--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Mitchel family.
Mitchel, John Purroy, 1879-1918.
Mitchell family.
Rockefeller, John D. (John Davison), 1839-1937--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Villard, Oswald Garrison, 1872-1949--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.

Organizations

Corona Diamond Syndicate. Corona Diamond Syndicate records. circa 1904-1912.
United States. Collector of Customs (New York, N.Y.)

Subjects

Diamond mines and mining--Guyana.
National security--United States.
Ports of entry--New York (State)--New York.

Places

New York (N.Y.)--Politics and government.
United States--Defenses.

Occupations

Lawyers.

Mayors--New York (State)--New York.
Soldiers.

Provenance

The papers of John Purroy Mitchel, soldier, lawyer, and mayor of New York, N.Y., were deposited in the Library of Congress by Mrs. James Mitchel and Mrs. William Brown Meloney in 1930 and 1941 and converted to a gift by William Brown Melomney V in 1952.

Processing History

The papers of John Purroy Mitchell were arranged and described in 1953. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of John Purroy Mitchel in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Purroy Mitchel 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, John Purroy Mitchel Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1879	Born, Fordham, N.Y.
1899	A.B., Columbia University, New York., N.Y.
1901	New York University Law School, New York, N.Y.
1901	Admitted to New York bar
1906-1907	Special counsel to city of New York, N.Y.
1907-1909	Commissioner of accounts, New York, N.Y.
1909-1913	President, Board of Aldermen, New York, N.Y.; acting mayor in 1910
1913	Collector, Port of New York
1914-1917	Mayor, New York, N.Y.
1918	Major, Aviation Corps, United States Army
1918	Died, Lake Charles, Louisiana

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Purroy Mitchel (1879-1918) span the years 1835-1932, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1892-1918. The collection consists mainly of correspondence, desk diaries, speeches, articles, press releases, notebooks, memorabilia, and scrapbooks. The material documents Mitchel's administrations as counselor and mayor of

New York City; work as collector of the Port of New York Authority; and activities as a member of the board of directors of the Corona Diamond Syndicate, conducting mining operations in British Guiana (Guyana). Also included is material pertaining to his views on national defense. The papers are organized into five series: [Correspondence](#) ; [Speeches, Articles, and Press Releases](#) ; [Subject File](#) ; [Scrapbooks](#) , and [Miscellany](#) .

Correspondents include Arthur James Balfour, Earl of Balfour, August Belmont, Andrew Carnegie, Joseph Rodgers Choate, Learned Hand, Norman Hapgood, Myron T. Herrick, Herbert Hoover, Charles Evans Hughes, John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937), Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), William H. Taft, Oswald Garrison Villard, and Woodrow Wilson.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Correspondence, 1882-1932](#)
- [Speeches, Articles, and Press Releases, 1892-1918](#)
- [Subject File, circa 1835-1922](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1914-1917](#)
- [Miscellany, 1870-1891](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-26	<p><u>Correspondence, 1882-1932</u> Letters sent and received and related material. Chronologically arranged.</p>
BOX 27-33	<p><u>Speeches, Articles, and Press Releases, 1892-1918</u> Typed multicopy and printed copies of speeches, articles, and press releases by Mitchel. Arranged chronologically by year.</p>
BOX 34-55	<p><u>Subject File, circa 1835-1922</u> Files on various subjects pertaining to Mitchel's career. . Arranged largely by chronology.</p>
BOX 56-69	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1914-1917</u> Clippings mounted in scrapbooks mainly concerning Mitchel's administration as mayor of New York City. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 70-72	<p><u>Miscellany, 1870-1891</u> Certificates, posters, diplomas, family material, financial and legal and records, school papers, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-26	Correspondence, 1882-1932 Letters sent and received and related material. Chronologically arranged.
BOX 1	1882-1902
BOX 2	1905-1908
BOX 3	1909
BOX 4	1910-1911
BOX 5	1912-1913
BOX 6	1914
BOX 6	Jan.-Aug.
BOX 7	Sept.-Dec.
BOX 8	1915
BOX 8	Jan.-Aug.
BOX 9	Sept.-Dec.
BOX 10	1916
BOX 10	Jan.-May
BOX 11	June-Dec.
BOX 12	1917
BOX 12	Jan.-May
BOX 13	June-Aug.
BOX 14-15	Sept.
BOX 16-18	Oct.
BOX 19	Nov.
BOX 20	Nov.-Dec.
BOX 20	"Fusion Letters"
BOX 20	Anonymous letters
BOX 21	Mayor's personal letters
BOX 22	1918
BOX 22	Jan.-June
BOX 23	July-Aug.
BOX 23	Letters of condolence
BOX 24	1918-1932, regarding death of Mitchel
BOX 25-26	Undated
BOX 27-33	Speeches, Articles, and Press Releases, 1892-1918 Typed multicopy and printed copies of speeches, articles, and press releases by Mitchel. Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 27	1892-1913
BOX 28	1913
BOX 29	1914-1915

Speeches, Articles, and Press Releases, 1892-1918

Container	Contents
BOX 30	1916
BOX 31-32	1917
BOX 33	1917-1918
BOX 34-55	Subject File, circa 1835-1922 Files on various subjects pertaining to Mitchel's career. . Arranged largely by chronology.
BOX 34-35	circa 1835-1900, family papers
BOX 36	circa 1904-1912, Corona Diamond Syndicate
BOX 37-38	circa 1906-1909 , special counsel; commissioner of accounts, documents
BOX 39	circa 1907-1922 , New York municipal affairs
BOX 40	1909-1912 , personal financial papers
BOX 41	1908-1914 , personal financial papers, cancelled checks
BOX 42	1915-1918 , personal financial papers, cancelled checks
BOX 43	1909 , campaign for president, Board of Alderman
BOX 43	1909-1913 , president, Board of Alderman
BOX 43	1909-1914, subway construction
BOX 43	1911-1914 , Public Service Commission
BOX 43	1911-1917 , "Rockaway Park-Dreamland"
BOX 44	1913 , Collector, Port of New York
BOX 45	1913 , campaign for mayor of New York
BOX 45	1913-1915
BOX 45	Notebooks and desk diaries
BOX 46	Notebooks and desk diaries
BOX 47	1913 , "Police Situation"
BOX 47	1914-1917 , education (including Gary Plan)
BOX 47	Mainly 1914-1917 , budgetary matters
BOX 47	1915 , "Morris L. Strauss Case"
BOX 48	Mainly 1915 , court house proposals
BOX 48	circa 1915-1917 , home rule
BOX 49	circa 1915-1917 , preparedness and national defense
BOX 50	circa 1915-1917 , garbage disposal
BOX 50	1916 , labor problems
BOX 50	circa 1916-1918 , West Side improvements (New York Central Railroad)
BOX 50	Mainly 1917 (?)
BOX 50	Charities investigation
BOX 51	Charities investigation
BOX 52	Campaign for mayor of New York 1917
BOX 53	No date
BOX 53	Biographical material and memorabilia
BOX 54-55	Photographs
BOX 56-69	Scrapbooks, 1914-1917 Clippings mounted in scrapbooks mainly concerning Mitchel's administration as mayor of New York City. Arranged chronologically.

Scrapbooks, 1914-1917

Container

Contents

BOX 56	1914
BOX 56	Jan. 1-May 31
BOX 57	June 1-Nov. 1
BOX 58	1914, Nov. 1, 1914-1915, Aug. 22
BOX 59	1915, Aug. 23-1916, May 14
BOX 60	1916, May 15-Dec. 31
BOX 61	1917
BOX 61	Jan. 1-Mar. 23
BOX 61	Mar. 24-Apr. 28
BOX 62	Aug. 29-June 18
BOX 63	June 18-July 16
BOX 63	July 16-21
BOX 64	July 21-Aug. 18
BOX 65	Aug. 18-Sept. 14
BOX 66	Sept. 14-27
BOX 67	Sept. 27-Oct. 5
BOX 68	Oct. 5-16
BOX 69	Oct. 16-23
BOX 70-72	Miscellany, 1870-1891 Certificates, posters, diplomas, family material, financial and legal and records, school papers, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged by type of material.
BOX OV 70	Certificates and diplomas, professional license and political poster (Oversize)
BOX 71	Mitchel-Purroy families
BOX 71	Mitchel, James, receipt book, 1878-1879
BOX 71	Purroy, G. M.
BOX 71	Account book, 1881-1882
BOX 71	Receipt book, 1875-1884 (2 folders)
BOX 72	Receipt book, 1882-1891
BOX 72	Purroy, John B., legal record, 1847-1891
BOX 72	Purroy, Mary C., school exercise book, undated
BOX 72	Purroy family
BOX 72	Receipts, 1886, undated
BOX 72	School papers
BOX 72	Wheeler, Henry G., account book, 1870-1872