

Waldo Gifford Leland Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78029900>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013140>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Revised 2022 October

Collection Summary

Title: Waldo Gifford Leland Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1844-1966

Bulk Dates: 1915-1966

ID No.: MSS29900

Creator: Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966

Extent: 55,000 items

Extent: 178 containers plus 5 oversize

Extent: 45 linear feet

Extent: 3 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78029900>

Summary: Archivist and historian. Honorary consultant in international relations, Library of Congress. Correspondence, diaries, articles, reports, memoranda, notes, and miscellaneous papers relating to Leland's career as archivist, historian, and consultant in international relations.

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

Boyd, Julian P. (Julian Parks), 1903-1980--Correspondence.

Brown, Orie O. Orie O. Brown papers. 1891-1893.

Buck, Solon J. (Solon Justus), 1884-1962--Correspondence.

Doysié, Abel, 1886-1973--Correspondence.

Jameson, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1859-1937--Correspondence.

Koht, Halvdan, 1873-1965--Correspondence.

Leland family--Correspondence.

Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966, Guide to materials for American history in the libraries and archives of Paris.

Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966, Guide to materials for American history in the libraries and archives of Paris.

Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966.

Pirrenne, Henri, 1862-1935--Correspondence.

Whitehill, Walter Muir, 1905-1978--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Council of Learned Societies.

American Philosophical Society.

Brown University.

Cosmos Club (Washington, D.C.)

League of Nations. International Committee on Intellectual Co-operation.

Library of Congress.

Unesco.

Subjects

Archives--France--Paris.

Archives--United States.

Archives.

Archivists--United States.

Humanities--Societies, etc.

Humanities.

Indians of North America--Education--South Dakota--Pine Ridge.

Intellectual cooperation.

International cooperation.
Learning and scholarship.
Libraries--France--Paris.
Sciences--Societies, etc.
Social sciences.
Universities and colleges--Rhode Island.

Places

United States--History--Sources.

Occupations

Archivists.
Historians.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland, historian, archivist, and honorary consultant in international relations at the Library of Congress, were given to the Library of Congress in 1966 and 1969 by his widow, Gertrude Dennis Leland. Portions of the collection had previously been deposited in the Library by Leland.

Processing History

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland were arranged and described in 1968 and expanded in 1978 by Anita L. Nolen. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Additional Guides

A [list of prominent correspondents](#) in the General Correspondence series of the Leland Papers is appended to the finding aid.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the records of the [American Council of Learned Societies](#).

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on three reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. One reel was received as part of the papers of Waldo Leland Gifford and is listed and described in this finding aid, but is not available for interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Waldo Gifford Leland Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1879, July 17	Born, Newton, Mass.
1900	A.B., Brown University, Providence, R.I.
1900-1903	Assistant in history, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1901	A.M., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1903-1932	Staff member, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Department of Historical Research
1904	Married Gertrude Dennis Published with Claude H. Van Tyne <i>Guide to the Archives of the Government of the United States in Washington</i> . Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington
1907-1927	Headed mission by Carnegie Institution of Washington to survey sources for American history in French repositories, Paris, France
1909-1920	Secretary, American Historical Association
1917-1919	Secretary, National Board for Historic Service
1919	Organizing secretary, American Council of Learned Societies
1923-1924	Hyde Exchange Lecturer in French universities
1924-1926	Executive secretary, American Council of Learned Societies
1927-1946	Permanent secretary (later called director), American Council of Learned Societies
1923-1946	Delegate, International Union of Academics
1926	Organizer and delegate, International Committee of Historical Sciences Published with Newton D. Mereness <i>Introduction to the American Official Sources for the Economic and Social History of the World War</i> . New Haven: Yale University Press
1929	Named Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor
1929-1931	Vice president, International Union of Academics
1931-1952	Member, National Park Service Advisory Board
1932	Published <i>Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris</i> , vol. 1. Washington, D.C., Carnegie Institution of Washington
1933	Awarded Chevalier of Order of Polonia Restituta
1933-1964	Member, Board of Fellows of Brown University, Providence, R.I.
1938-1948	President, International Committee of Historical Sciences
1938-1946	President, International Union of Academics
1939-1941	President, Society of American Archivists
1943	Published <i>Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris</i> , vol. 2. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington
1946	Named Officer of French Legion of Honor
1947-1966	Director emeritus, American Council of Learned Societies
1946-1949	Vice chairman, United States National Commission for Unesco
1950	Distinguished Service Award of the Department of the Interior
1952-1966	Honorary collaborator, National Park Service
1952-1966	Honorary consultant in the history of international intellectual relations, Library of Congress
1958	Elected fellow of the Society of American Archivists
1966, Oct. 19	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Waldo Gifford Leland (1879-1966) span the years 1844-1966, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1915-1966. The collection features the development of archival work in the United States and cooperation in the humanities and social sciences. The papers are organized into six series: [Diaries and Notebooks, 1895-1960](#); [Family Papers, 1844-1966](#); [General Correspondence, 1890-1966](#); [Subject File, 1908-1966](#); [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964](#); and [Miscellany, 1877-1966](#).

This collection documents in detail the period from 1947 to 1966 after Leland had retired as director of the American Council of Learned Societies and while he was associated with various organizations, government agencies, and other projects, often in an advisory capacity. For earlier years, there is considerable material concerning the formation and early years of the ACLS, 1919-1928, and the International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations, 1925-1939. The work of this committee was continued after World War II by Unesco, and Leland was also involved in the formation and subsequent work of this group.

The professional correspondence is also strongest for the two periods cited, during Leland's early professional career and his years of retirement. The largest groups of correspondence are those with his longtime friends, Abel Doysie, his primary assistant in Paris collecting information for the *Paris Guide*, and J. Franklin Jameson, whom Leland first knew as his teacher at Brown University. Jameson was instrumental in starting Leland on a career in the historical-archival field by inviting Leland to serve under him in the newly formed Department of Historical Research of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Other major correspondents are Julian P. Boyd, Solon J. Buck, Halvdan Koht, Henri Pirenne, and Walter Muir Whitehill. There is also correspondence documenting Leland's close and longstanding associations with the American Philosophical Society, Brown University, and the Cosmos Club.

The earliest correspondence in the collection consists of letters to Leland's father, mother, and sister from people outside the family as well as correspondence between family members. Among the letters are two written to Leland's father by Charles Sumner, senator from Massachusetts, in 1851 and 1854. The earliest letter to Waldo Leland appears in 1883.

A significant part of the collection consists of material relating to the *Guide to Materials for American History in the Libraries and Archives of Paris*. He undertook this work for the Carnegie Institution of Washington, which published volumes 1 and 2 in 1932 and 1943 respectively. Although data and typescripts were completed for three more volumes, they were not published. Leland's notes made in France and those of his assistants on the project are contained in over five hundred cahiers (or notebooks) and numerous note cards. The drafts of volumes 3-5 prepared by David W. Parker and John J. Meng and typescripts of these and of volume 2 are included in the collection as are offset plates prepared for the volumes' proposed publication. There is correspondence concerning the guide dating from 1911, but most of it relates to Leland's efforts to publish the later volumes during the period 1954-1963.

Miscellaneous material in the Leland Papers includes copies of the *Bulletins* of the ACLS, 1920-1952, and a small number of items constituting the papers of Orié O. Brown, a friend of the Leland family, for the period 1891-1893, when she was a teacher at an Indian School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Diaries and Notebooks, 1895-1960](#)
- [Family Papers, 1844-1966](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1890-1966](#)
- [Subject File, 1908-1966](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964](#)
- [Miscellany, 1877-1966](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-4	<p><u>Diaries and Notebooks, 1895-1960</u></p> <p>Miscellaneous notebooks and notes of Leland, followed by intermittent diaries and appointment books. Also diaries of Leland's wife.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically within the two groupings.</p>
BOX 5-14	<p><u>Family Papers, 1844-1966</u></p> <p>Family correspondence, including between Waldo and his wife, and material concerning the family and the settling of family estates. Also includes personal papers of Leland's father, Luther E. Leland, his mother, Nellie M. Gifford Leland, and his sister, Minerva E. Leland.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX 15-29	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1890-1966</u></p> <p>Personal and professional correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with invitations and letters of authorization filed at the end of the series. See also a partial listing of major correspondents in the <u>Appendix</u>.</p>
BOX 30-119	<p><u>Subject File, 1908-1966.</u></p> <p>Correspondence and other material concerning the various organizations, advisory boards, and projects with which Leland was associated.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 120-175	<p><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964</u></p> <p>Chiefly typescripts and reprints of articles and speeches by Leland, but including some of Leland's student papers. Also includes some correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged by title or type of writing.</p>
BOX 176-183	<p><u>Miscellany, 1877-1966</u></p> <p>School report cards, memorabilia, routine correspondence, miscellaneous unidentified notes, a short biography of Leland, photographs, newspaper clippings, and British Microfilm Project documentation.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4	Diaries and Notebooks, 1895-1960 Miscellaneous notebooks and notes of Leland, followed by intermittent diaries and appointment books. Also diaries of Leland's wife. Arranged chronologically within the two groupings.
BOX 1	Leland, Waldo Gifford Miscellaneous notebooks and notes
BOX 2	Diaries and appointment books 1895-1942
BOX 3	1940-1960
BOX 4	Leland, Gertrude Dennis (wife)
BOX 5-14	Family Papers, 1844-1966 Family correspondence, including between Waldo and his wife, and material concerning the family and the settling of family estates. Also includes personal papers of Leland's father, Luther E. Leland, his mother, Nellie M. Gifford Leland, and his sister, Minerva E. Leland. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 5	Correspondence Chronological 1844-1885
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BOX 7	1899-1904
BOX 8	1905-1909
BOX 9	1910-1921
BOX 10	1922-1938
BOX 11	1939-1966
BOX 12	Between Leland and his wife, Gertrude Dennis Leland, 1898-1956
BOX 13	Undated and unidentified Documents concerning passports of Leland Medical documents Material concerning family property Ancestry Will, 1928 Estate of Minerva E. Leland (sister) Estate of Luther E. Leland (father)
BOX 14	Writings, diaries, and other papers of Luther E. Leland, Nellie M. Gifford Leland (mother), and Minerva E. Leland
BOX 15-29	General Correspondence, 1890-1966 Personal and professional correspondence.

General Correspondence, 1890-1966

Container

Contents

Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, with invitations and letters of authorization filed at the end of the series. See also a partial listing of major correspondents in the [Appendix](#).

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BOX 18 Doysie-FI
BOX 19 Fo-Hark
BOX 20 Harr-Jameson
BOX 21 Jameson-Ki
BOX 22 Kl-Man
BOX 23 Mar-Ne
BOX 24 Ni-Pi
BOX 25 Pl-Sa
BOX 26 Sch-Sq
BOX 27 Sta-V
BOX 28 Wa-Z and unidentified
BOX 29 Unidentified
Invitations
Letters of authorization

BOX 30-119

Subject File, 1908-1966.

Correspondence and other material concerning the various organizations, advisory boards, and projects with which Leland was associated.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 30 Advisory Committee on the history of Washington project, 1954-1960
BOX 31 American Academy of Arts and Sciences
American Council on Education, 1961
American Council of Learned Societies
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BOX 32 1928-1958
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Miscellaneous
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Committee on American Native Languages, 1942-1951
Committee on the Distribution of American Learned Periodicals, 1919-1925
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	Nominations, committee on
	Franklin, Benjamin, papers
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	Special Committee on Admissions Policies and Procedures, 1953-1954
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BOX 44	1958-1966 Clippings International Intellectual Cooperation, American National Committee on 1923-1956 History of committee Miscellaneous undated material
BOX 45	“National Committee on Intellectual Cooperation, 1926-1943,” by Edith E. Ware (typescript) Committee on Arts and Letters, 1937-1938 International intellectual cooperation, 1937-1938 International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation Organization of committee Index to minutes of meetings, 1925-1930 Plenary sessions, minutes, and reports to Council and Assembly, 1939
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BOX 47	1928-1934
BOX 48	1922-1927 Council and Assembly 1934-1939
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BOX 50	1921-1924 Lists of documents Documents 1934-1939
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BOX 52	1924-1929
BOX 53	1923 Subcommittee on Science and Bibliography 1923-1930 Minutes 1929-1930
BOX 54	1922-1928 Committee of Inquiry, 1930 Advisory Committee on League of Nations Teaching documents

Subject File, 1908-1966.

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BOX 56	1926, 1929, 1937 Instruction of youth Documents 1928, 1929-1933
BOX 57	1925, 1927 Minutes, 1926-1927 Interchange of teachers, 1928-1929 Permanent Committee, Letters and Arts, 1931-1937 Subcommittee, Letters and Arts, 1926-1930
BOX 58	Letters and arts Minutes Documents Cast Workshops Committee International Office of Museums Intellectual rights Representatives of chalcographical institutions
BOX 59	University relations Minutes Documents
BOX 60	University representative of student organizations Members Effect of closing the Rome Institute, 1938 International Educational Cinematographic Institute, Rome, Italy National committees, miscellaneous National committees (American), minutes
BOX 61	Report of the Washington office, 1933 Reports regarding European meetings, 1937-1939 Reports regarding Paris meetings, 1935-1938 Comité de Direction
BOX 62	Documents and minutes Comité Executif Documents
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BOX 95	Education
BOX 96	Financial reports of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation Reports of the governing body of the Institute Directors of higher education Intellectual activity International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation reports Reports regarding international relations Reports regarding library activities and techniques Sessions and minutes of the Council Minutes of the Institute Problems of mechanization
BOX 97	Moral Disarmament Reports regarding International Museums Office National committees reports Press Provisional minutes of the Institute
BOX 98	Plenary sessions of the Institute Reports of the representative of France on the work of the Institute Sessions of the Institute Report of the Sixth Committee to the Assembly Reports regarding scientific unions Reports regarding revision of school textbooks Leland portrait, 1957 Library Problems Conference, Jan. 1955 Library of Congress General, 1941
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BOX 101	Operations in England, 1940-1942, 1961 Report on visit to Europe, 1946, by Eugene B. Power Conference on Copying European Manuscript Sources for American History, 1961 "Planning for Scholarly Photocopying," by Lester K. Born National Park Service 1931-1950
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BOX 103	1957-1966 National Trust for Historic Preservation and National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings, 1947-1966 Naval History, Advisory Committee on 1952-1962
BOX 104	1963-1966 People to People program, 1956 St. Augustine historical program 1936-1941
BOX 105	Publicity, 1937-1941 Société d'Histoire Moderne, 1923-1940 Society of American Archivists 1937-1957
BOX 106	1961-1965 Waldo Gifford Leland Prize fund, 1957-1963 Textile Museum, 1954-1958 Unesco General Liaison Committee, 1943-1945
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BOX 111	Legislation National Commission Special Committee on the National Commission and the Department of State
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BOX 116	1951-1964 Miscellaneous reports concerning Unesco
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BOX OV 118	Scrapbook given to Leland by Unesco relations staff when he left the staff, 24 May 1951
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Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964

Chiefly typescripts and reprints of articles and speeches by Leland, but including some of Leland's student papers. Also includes some correspondence.
Arranged by title or type of writing.

BOX 120

Papers written as a student

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Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964

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BOX 155	Typescript Vol. 3 pp. 1-822 <i>Available on Microfilm, shelf no. 16,134 (negative)</i>
BOX 156	pp. 823-1145 Vol. 4, pp. 1-252 Draft, vol. 5 (Archives Coloniales to Series B) (Archives Coloniales, Series C2-C13a)
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BOX OV 160	Offset plates, Archives Nationales <i>Available on Microfilm, shelf no. 15,668</i>
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BOX OV 168	PTD. TPTS. General List. 1461-1710
BOX OV 169	PTD. TPTS. 1711-1750
BOX OV 170	PTD. TPTS. 1751-1760
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Speech, Article, and Book File, 1892-1964

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BOX 176	Cash books, accounts of expenditures Miscellaneous research notes
BOX 177	Short biography of Leland Inventory of personal property Reports of marks from Newton High School, Newton, Mass., and Brown University, Providence, R.I. 50th anniversary, class of 1896, Newton High School, Newton, Mass. Newton High School <i>Review</i> , July 1896 Miscellaneous unidentified Miscellaneous notes Routine correspondence, 1917-1966, undated Proposed "Standards for State Archival Agencies," by Ernst Posner South American trip, 1939
BOX 178	Book, <i>Manners and Customs of Ye Harvard Students</i> , by F. G. Attwood (J. R. Osgood, 1877) Photographs Newspaper clippings Bound copy, <i>Studies in the History of Culture</i> , 1942
BOX OV 179	Scrapbook, memorabilia of college days, Brown University, class of 1900
BOX 180	Papers of Orië O. Brown, teacher, Indian School Service, Pine Ridge, S.D., 1891-1893 Correspondence, 1891-1893 (mostly with the Indian School Service) Notebook, "Travel Notes"
BOX 181	<i>Bulletins</i> , American Council of Learned Societies Nos. 1-25, 1920-1936
BOX 182	Nos. 26-45, 1937-1952
BOX 183	British Microfilm Project Conference on Microfilming Research Materials, 1940-1943 General correspondence, 1953 Printed matter, 1941-1943 Reports, 1940-1947 Simpson, Claude M., "Early Rhode Island Pronunciation, 1636-1700" <i>Available only on Microfilm, shelf no. 13,631</i>

Appendix: List of Prominent Correspondents in the General Correspondence Series

- Barbour, Mary S.
- Bemis, Samuel Flag
- Bell, Whitfield J.
- Bellot, H. Hale
- Berrien, William
- Bingham, Millicent
- Boussemart, Annette
- Boyd, Julian P.
- Brigham, Clarence S.
- Buck, Solon J.
- Burkhardt, Frederick
- Butterfield, Lyman H.
- Cappon, Lester J.
- Carmichael, Leonard
- Churchill, John D.
- Clapp, Verner
- Curti, Merle
- Dilliard, Irving
- Doysie, Abel (and family)
- Eisenhower, Milton
- Evans, Luther H.
- Flanders, Helen H and Ralph E.
- Ford, Guy Stanton
- Frankfurter, Felix
- Graves, Mortimer
- Grover, Wayne
- Hamer, Philip
- Heindel, Richard H.
- Holland, Kenneth
- Holmes, Oliver Wendell
- Huntington, W. Chapin
- Hyde, James Hazen
- Jameson, J. Franklin
- Keeney, Barnaby C.
- Kidder, Alfred V.
- Kirkconnell, Watson
- Koht, Halvdan
- Lee, Ronald F.
- Lheritier, Michel and Andree
- Lingelbach, William E.
- McKay, Donald
- Margry, Gertrude
- Marshall, John
- Mearns, David C.
- Moe, Henry Allen
- Mumford, L. Quincy
- O'Brien, John Lord
- O'Brien, Robert Lincoln
- Odegard, Charles E.
- Parker, David W.
- Perkins, Fred B.

- Pirenne, H.
- Posner, Ernst
- Putnam, Herbert
- Quynn, William and Dorothy
- Robinson, Fred N.
- Schafer, Boyd C.
- Schilpp, Paul A.
- Schlesinger, Arthur M.
- Shipton, Clifford K.
- Simon, Lewis A.
- Skard, Sigmund
- Snell, Edwin
- Starr, Harris E.
- Stevens, David H.
- Takagi, Yasaka
- Tate, Vernon D.
- Thomson, Charles A.
- Trever, Karl L.
- Van Kalken, Frans
- Vignaud, Henry
- Vitoux, H.
- Vitoux, Pierre
- Ware, Edith E.
- Wells, William S.
- Webster, Charles K.
- Westergaard, Waldemar
- Whitaker, Arthur P.
- Whitehill, Walter Muir
- Zdanowicz, Casimir