

Philip Lee Phillips Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2014

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81059923>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014055>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014

Collection Summary

Title: Philip Lee Phillips Papers

Span Dates: 1885-1921

ID No.: MSS59923

Creator: Phillips, Philip Lee, 1857-1924

Extent: 200 items

Extent: 4 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81059923>

Summary: Cartographer and chief director of maps of Library of Congress Map Division. Correspondence, writings, printed matter, and other personal material relating to Phillips's work and career at the Library of Congress as a cartographer and chief of the Library's Map Division.

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

Phillips, Philip Lee, 1857-1924.

Putnam, Herbert, 1861-1955--Correspondence.

Organizations

Library of Congress--Officials and employees.

Library of Congress. Library of Congress archives.

Library of Congress. Map Division.

Subjects

Cartography.

Map collections--Washington (D.C.)

Occupations

Cartographers.

Librarians.

Provenance

The papers of Philip Lee Phillips, cartographer and chief director of maps of the Library of Congress Map Division, were given to the Library of Congress by John Jameson, assistant secretary for the Smithsonian Institution, in 1981.

Processing History

The Philip Lee Phillips papers were processed in 1982. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Philip Lee Phillips is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Philip Lee Phillips 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, Philip Lee Phillips Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Born in Washington, D.C., March 1, 1856, Philip Lee Phillips was raised in New Orleans and Georgia before returning with his family to Washington in 1866. His father, Philip Phillips (1807-1884), served in the House of Representatives from South Carolina before the Civil War and practiced law there afterwards, including before the Supreme Court as a prominent local attorney. Phillip Lee Phillips entered Columbia College Law School in 1874, but left school a year later for a position on the staff of the Library of Congress. In 1879 he was listed as an official cataloger. Prior to that, his salary had been paid without his knowledge by his father. He soon developed an expertise in cartography, leading to an appointment in 1897 as superintendent of the Hall of Maps and Charts in the new Library of Congress building and in 1906 as chief of the Maps and Charts Division. In 1899 Phillips married Imogen D. Hutchins. He produced numerous bibliographies and atlases, including the first lists of maps and atlases in the Library of Congress, where he was employed at the time of his death on January 4, 1924. Among his principal works were *A List of Geographical Atlases in the Library of Congress* (4 vols., 1909-1920) and *Lists of Maps of America in the Library of Congress* (1901).

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Philip Lee Phillips (1857-1924) span the years 1885-1921 and consist of correspondence, writings, printed matter, and other personal material focused on Phillips's work and career at the Library of Congress as a cartographer and chief of the Library's Map Division. Almost entirely letters received, the correspondence is mostly from government officials, libraries and cultural institutions, bookstores, and publishers pertaining to his atlases and bibliographies and to his employment at the Library of Congress. Prominent among the correspondents is Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Letters retrieved from the apartment of Phillips, Washington, D.C., 1887-1917
BOX 1	Letters from Dodd, Mead and Co., 1918
BOX 1	Letters to Phillips, 1892-1915
BOX 1	A-K (5 folders)
BOX 2	L-Z (4 folders)
BOX 2	Writings by Phillips
BOX 2	“Bladensburg in the British Peerage: How It Happened”
BOX 2	“Bernard Romans: His Biography and Bibliography with a Reproduction of the ‘Two Whole Sheets Maps’ of Florida, 1774”
BOX 2	Copies
BOX 3	Drafts
BOX 3	Notes
BOX 3	Miscellany
BOX 3	“An Account of the Life and Character of Christopher Ludwick”
BOX 3	Biography of Daniel Smith
BOX 3	“Coachman of the Marquise” (story translated from French)
BOX 3	Cuba
BOX 3	Division of Maps and Charts, Library of Congress
BOX 3	Estrada Palma, Tomás
BOX 3	Testimony to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
BOX 3	Representing himself to the delegate plenipotentiary and general agent aboard, of the Cuba Republic to the secretary of state
BOX 3	“History of Tennessee”
BOX 3	Letter of L. A. Nuckols, 1908
BOX 3	Letter to Emmons from W. A. Baillie-Grohman
BOX 3	Maps
BOX 3	Photographs
BOX 3	Printed works of William Tatham, letters to Governor Randolph
BOX 3	“Royal Ordinances concerning the Laying out of Towns”
BOX 4	Printed matter
BOX 4	Mounted printed matter and clippings (3 folders)