

Papers of  
FRANCIS BIDDLE  
1912-1967

Accession Numbers: 79-45, 82-6 and 88-2.

These papers were donated to the Library in 1979 under the terms of the will of Mr. Biddle's widow, Katherine Chapin Biddle. Her copyright interest was assigned to the United States Government. Further donations in 1981 and 1988 were made by Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Biddle. They have not donated copyright interests.

Quantity: 12 feet

Restrictions: None.

Related Materials: In the following collections of papers in the Roosevelt Library: Adolf A. Berle, John Carmody, Morris L. Cooke, Oscar Cox, Charles Fahy, Lowell Mellett, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Samuel I. Rosenman, Henry A. Wallace, OF, PPF and PSF. See also Mr. Biddle's two volume memoir, A Casual Past and In Brief Authority. The Biddle papers on the Nuremberg Trials are in the Syracuse University Library.

## FRANCIS BIDDLE

### Biographical Sketch

Born into a wealthy Philadelphia family in 1886, Francis Biddle was a Groton and Harvard graduate. After Harvard Law School he served for one year as secretary to Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes.

A practicing attorney in Philadelphia for twenty-five years, Mr. Biddle was named in 1934 the first chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, filling that post for one year. In 1939 President Roosevelt made him judge of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. In 1940 he was appointed Solicitor General and in September 1941 Attorney General. After leaving that post in May 1945, Mr. Biddle was appointed U.S. member of the International Military Tribunal that tried the Nazi war criminals at Nuremburg.

From 1947 until his death in 1968, Mr. Biddle was active as a speaker and as a writer. Among the organizations he worked with were the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Commission and the Americans for Democratic Action, the latter of which he headed as national chairman from 1950 to 1953.

Most of the material in this collection is from Mr. Biddle's tenure as Attorney General, with a few items from his year as Solicitor General. Justice Department reports and memos, speeches, general correspondence, notes on Cabinet meetings, and notes on conferences with President Roosevelt form the bulk of the papers given to the Roosevelt Library. Other items in the collection have been grouped by subject; and incoming correspondence has been filed alphabetically by name of correspondent under the heading "Correspondence." A few carbons of outgoing correspondence were in these papers.

It appears that Mr. Biddle made use of this material (although he did not arrange it under subject headings) in the writing of his autobiography. However, the Papers of Francis Biddle are not the complete Justice Department records created during his tenure as Attorney General.

FRANCIS BIDDLE PAPERS  
1912-1967

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1	Aliens and Immigration Antitrust Cases and Cartels, 1942-1944 Antitrust Cases and Cartels, 1945 and Undated Biddle, Francis - Biographical Sketch Biddle, Francis - Congressional Testimony Cabinet Meetings, 1941 Cabinet Meetings, January-June 1942 Cabinet Meetings, July-December 1942 Cabinet Meetings, 1943 Cabinet Meetings, 1944-May 1945 Censorship CIO Political Action Committee Civil Rights/Fair Employment Congressional Bills Correspondence: A-H
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Attorney General IX: Prisons; Admin-  
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Attorney General X: Anti-Trust; The A.P.  
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Memoranda; Hawaii; The Flynns and 1601;  
President's Death; Talk with Truman.  
Attorney General XI: Truman; Solomon de  
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1944.  
Attorney General Notes: Bliss Perry; Byrnes;  
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6	<p>Notes on reading Heckscher, The Public  Happiness  V Vogt, "Road to Survival;" Rogge, "Our  Vanishing Civil Liberties;"  Rauschenbush, "Our Conservative Job;"  Zenger.  Curti - Roots of American Loyalty, etc.  XIX Barrett-Teney Committee, etc.  Control of American Foreign Policy II  Manuscript Volume III Labor Board  Manuscript Volume IV Labor Board  Notes on Reading, July 1961  I Notes - I Randolph, etc.  The Inner Light I  The Inner Light II  X MacLeish - Conquest of America  John Randolph of Roanoke  The Friendship of Holmes and Brandeis  Loyalty Britannica, etc.  Equality - Tawney, etc.  Congress at Crossroads  Emerson and Helfield - "Loyalty Among  Government Employees."</p>
7	<p>VIII Congdon Case, etc.  "Communism in Action," etc.  XIII Federal Information Controls in  Peacetime, etc.  Bryce Parts II and III  Bryce Parts III and IV  Articles and Lectures  Articles and Lectures: Freedom in U.S.  1953 Articles and Speeches  President - Office Powers</p>

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8	Solicitor General PRR-131 A Virginia Gentleman and His Family Tennessee Valley Authority Report Francis Biddle Practice Volume II Francis Biddle Practice Volume III Francis Biddle Miscellaneous VI Loyalty Review Board IX Hollywood on Trial Stryker - For the Defense VII, etc. I Block - Concert Your Changing Loyalties (Cont.), etc. II Laski - The American Democracy, etc.  SCRAPBOOKS
9	1912 Presidential Campaign 1927-1934
10	1935-1940 Volume VIII Labor Board, Volume V, Oct. 1934-Mar. 1935
11	Labor Board II, Volume VI, 1935-1938 "Jennings Case," Nov. 1936-Dec. 1939
12	Tennessee Valley Authority, I and II 1938-1939
13	Tennessee Valley Authority, III 1938-1939 Solicitor General I Jan. 1940-Aug. 1941
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18	Attorney General VIII Dec. 1943-May 1944 Attorney General IX May-August 1944
19	Attorney General X Aug. 1944-Jan. 1945 Attorney General XI Feb.-July 1945
20	1947-1949 1949-1950
21	June 1950-1952 May 1952-April 1953
22	May 22, 1950-April 18, 1954 1955-1957
23	1959-1963 1964-1967
24	c. 1940-1965 Book Reviews: <u>A Casual Past; Justice Holmes,</u> <u>Natural Law, and the Supreme Court; In</u> <u>Brief Authority.</u>
25	Book Reviews: <u>The World's Best Hope.</u> Poems and Jingles Addresses 1941
26	Addresses 1942 Letters: A-F, 1941 Volume I Congratulatory on Appt. as Atty. Gen.
27	Letters: G-M, 1941 Volume II Congratulatory on Appt. as Atty. Gen.
28	Letters: N-Z, 1941 Volume III Congratulatory on Appt. as Atty. Gen. Letters: June 1945 Volume IV On Resignation as Atty. Gen.