

BASIL O'CONNOR COLLECTION

1928-1947

Accession No.: 73-41

This collection was presented to the Library from the estate of Basil O'Connor by Robert Van Deusen, Senior Trust Officer of the Chemical Bank (liquidators of the estate). It consists mainly of newspaper clippings and an extensive collection of political cartoons dating from 1932 to 1943. A small amount of correspondence and documents dealing with the activities of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Committee, and the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation are also contained. The bulk of O'Connor's papers were sold at auction by the Charles Hamilton Galleries in 1973. A smaller part was presented as a gift to Dartmouth College.

Quantity: 40 linear feet (approximately 80,000 pages)

Restrictions: None

Related Materials: President's Secretary's File: O'Connor, Basil, 1940-1944  
President's Personal File 96 (O'Connor, Dr. Basil)  
President's Personal File 310B (President's Birthday Ball, 1934-1945)  
President's Personal File 4885 (Committee for the Celebration of the President's Birthday)  
President's Personal File 4885A (Contributions towards the Celebration of the President's Birthday)  
President's Official File 124 (American Red Cross)  
President's Official File 411 (Warm Springs Foundation)  
Roosevelt, Franklin D., Papers as Governor of New York, 1929-1932: O'Connor, Basil  
Roosevelt, Franklin D., Papers pertaining to Family Business and Personal Affairs, 1882-1945: O'Connor, Basil  
Papers of Francis P. Corrigan  
Papers of Eleanor Roosevelt; see finding aid  
Records of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Committee  
Records of the F.D.R.L. Inc.

## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Basil O'Connor was born in Taunton, Massachusetts on January 8, 1892. His parents were Daniel Basil and Elizabeth Ann (O'Gorman) O'Connor. O'Connor's boyhood dream was to become a lawyer. This resolve led him to enroll at Dartmouth College, where he earned his expenses by playing violin in the town orchestra. After earning his B.A. from Dartmouth in 1912, he went to Harvard Law School, from which he obtained his L.L.B. in 1915 and L.L.D. in 1946.

O'Connor was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1915, and to the New York bar in the following year, when he entered the law firm of Cravath and Henderson in New York City. After a year in New York, he returned to his native state to join the firm of Streeter and Holmes in Boston. By 1919 he was back in New York where he practiced alone for five years.

In 1925 O'Connor became the partner of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the firm of Roosevelt and O'Connor, which was not dissolved until 1933 when the senior partner entered the White House. In the course of their years of association, O'Connor had addressed Roosevelt successively as "Franklin", "Governor", and "Mr. President". The former law partners continued their relationship throughout the Presidential years. In 1941 Raymond Clapper listed O'Connor as a member of "FDR's Unofficial Cabinet", which he described as, "kindred spirits, articulate men, with hair trigger minds who spark the President's thinking."

Although he never held a governmental position, O'Connor served the President in several capacities. Sharing Roosevelt's philanthropic concerns, he served as Chairman of the Executive Committee, Treasurer, and Trustee of the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, and as the President and Trustee of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. His interest in these foundations sprang from his friendship with the President, and from the inspiration he received from Roosevelt's courageous battle to overcome the effects of polio. In his capacity as Chairman and President, he raised hundreds of millions of dollars for research into poliomyelitis. The foundations he chaired supported the therapeutic research of Miss Elizabeth Kenny, and also provided the funds for the research of Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the discoverer of polio vaccine. O'Connor's crusade against polio led him to serve as the Trustee and Treasurer of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, the President of the International Poliomyelitis Conference, and as the President of the National Health Council. He was also active in the following organizations: The American Museum of Health, Human Engineering Laboratory, LaRabia Sanitarium, National Conference of Christians and Jews, Tuskegee Institute, Committee on Character and Fitness (of the Supreme Court), the Joint Conference on Legal Education, and the Friends of the Harvard Law School Library.

On February 4, 1939, O'Connor was appointed President of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Inc., a private organization created with the specific purpose of raising money, through public subscription, to erect and furnish a building to house the papers and other materials of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1944, President Roosevelt appointed him to succeed Norman H. Davis as the Chairman of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross. As the new Chairman, O'Connor visited newly liberated areas of Europe to assess their immediate needs for relief, and to estimate the most effective role that could be played by the Red Cross in the Post War reconstruction period. O'Connor held this position until 1949, and for his services was decorated by several grateful European governments.

Upon the President's death in 1945, O'Connor was appointed Chairman of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Committee, which was created to commission memorials and tributes to the late President. He held this position until 1946.

O'Connor continued to be active in philanthropic and public minded concerns until his death on March 10, 1972.

The O'Connor Collection is divided into five series as follows:

<u>CONTAINER</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
1	<u>Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Committee, 1945:</u> One container Correspondence, memoranda, reports and speech drafts pertaining to the creation and initial concerns of the Memorial Committee.
2-47	<u>Political Cartoons, 1932-1943:</u> Forty-six containers. Arranged chronologically. Cartoons depicting President Roosevelt, his cabinet, the Roosevelt coalition, New Deal Programs, preparedness for World War II, and the first few years of American involvement in the War. A fairly complete collection for the campaign of 1932 and the first ten years of the Roosevelt Administration.  <u>Cartoonists represented (a sampling):</u> Broughten, Angelo, Evans, Karl Kae Knecht, He Homan, Sickler, Lute Pease, Will Summers, Batchelor, Spencer, Cecil Jensen, Bill Vaughan, E.H. Shepard, Howard Freeman Yardley, Larimer, Herblack, Hy Gage, Orr, Staab, T. E. Powers, Bishop, Lenorio, Chase, Nate Prallier, Kennedy, Enright, Herbert Johnson, Wyncie King, McCutcheon, Howard Fisher, Cargill, Zeriter, Reg Manning, Don Palmer, Harry Keys, Gerry Maloney, Hull, Paige, Walter Galli, Jerry Costello, Will B. Johnstone, Ding, Hungerford, Messngr, Mune, Carfill, Hainigsen, Vinroux, Berryman, Reichhold, Hallady, Quincy Scott, C. Somdal, Leo Joseph Roche, Thomas T. Brown, Shoemaker, Donaheu, Billy Warren, Parrish, Ino Cassel, Goldsmith, Al Banx, Rand, Bruce Russell, Elderman, Sweigert, Rollin Kirby, Dalburt, Ray, Fred O. Seibel, Shafer, Norman, Gregor Duncan, Hutton, Buel, Slimmers, Brott, Frank Williams, Knott, Henderson, Talburt, Alan Klein, Packer, Fitzpatrick, Rube Goldberg.  <u>Newspapers represented (a sampling):</u> Atlantic City Press; Binghampton Press; South Bend, Indiana Tribune; Brooklyn Citizen; Dallas News; Cleveland News; New York Times; N.Y. News; Erie, Pa. Dispatch; St. Louis, Mo. Globe Democrat Democrat; Youngstown, Ohio Vindicator; Boston Transcript;

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Boston News Bureau; Chicago Journal of Commerce; East St. Louis Journal; Memphis, Tenn. Com'l Appeal; Birmingham Age Herald; Bayonne, N.J. Times; The Magazine of Wall Street; San Francisco Chronicle; St. Louis Star Times; Philadelphia Eve. Public Ledger; Wheeling, W. Va. Pilot Landmark; Brooklyn Eagle; N.Y. Post; Sat. Eve. Post; Spokane, Washington Spokesman Review; Milwaukee Journal; Terre Haute Tribune Star; Canton Repository; Phoenix Republic; Greensboro, N.C. News; Utica Observer Dispatch; Tampa Tribune; Decatur Herald; Sacramento Bee; Niagra Falls Gazette; Seattle Times; Albany News; Rochester Times Union; Jersey City Journal; Brooklyn Times Union; Charleston Gazette; Albany Knickerbocker Press; Atlanta Journal; Milwaukee Sentinel; Elgin, Illinois Courier News; Portland Oregonian; Detroit News; Buffalo Courier Express; Pittsburgh Post Gazette; N.Y. Herald Tribune; Cleveland Plain Dealer; Washington Star; Providence, R.I. Journal; Worcester Telegram; Bluefield, W. Va. Telegraph; Los Angeles Times; Philadelphia Enquirer; New Orleans Item; Washington D.C. News; Kansas City Star; Baltimore Sun; Des Moines Register; Cincinnati Times Star; Saginaw, Michigan News; Brattleboro, Vt. Reformer; N.Y.C. Daily Mirror; N.Y.C. Sun; N.Y.C. Enquirer.

48-70

Newspaper Clippings; F.D.R.L., 1938-1943:  
Twenty-three containers. Arranged chronologically. Clippings which either deal directly with the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, or make mention of it in some relation to the activities of the President or his family. This series is therefore useful both as a history of the inception of the first Presidential Library and as a minor chronicle of political and world events from 1938-1943.

71-77

Newspaper Clippings: Subject File:  
Seven containers. Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.  
Clippings dealing with O'Connor's career, F.D.R., the death of the President's mother, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, and other topics of particular interest to O'Connor.

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Scrapbooks:

Five bound scrapbooks. Arranged topically. Contain clippings, correspondence, reports, speeches, and photographs dealing with O'Connor's and Roosevelt's fund raising activities for poliomyelitis research.

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1928-1947

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Committee, 1945

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | F.D.R. Life Insurance Policy<br>F.D.R. Memorial Stamp<br>F.D.R. National Memorial Committee, First Meeting<br>of<br>F.D.R. Tombstone<br><i>F. D. R. Fourth Term</i> |
|   | <u>Political Cartoons, 1932-1943</u>  |
| 2 | March, 1932<br>April, 1932<br>May, 1932<br>June, 1932<br>July, 1932   |
| 3 | August, 1932<br>September, 1932<br>October, 1-20, 1932  |
| 4 | October 21-31, 1932<br>November 1-10, 1932<br>November 11-30, 1932<br>December, 1932  |
| 5 | January, 1933<br>February, 1933<br>March 1-8, 1933<br>March 9-15, 1933  |
| 6 | March 16-23, 1933<br>March 24-31, 1933<br>April 1-14, 1933<br>April 15-23, 1933   |
| 7 | April 24-30, 1933<br>May 1-14, 1933<br>May 15-31, 1933  |

CONTAINERCONTENTSPolitical Cartoons, 1932-1943

8	June 1-15, 1933 June 16-30, 1933 July, 1933 August, 1933
9	September, 1933 October, 1933 November, 1933 December, 1933
10	January 1-10, 1934 January 11-20, 1934 January 21-31, 1934 February, 1934 March 1-15, 1934
11	March 16-31, 1934 April, 1934 May, 1934 June 1-15, 1934 June 16-30, 1934 July, 1934
12	August, 1934 September, 1934 October, 1934 November, 1934 December, 1934
13	January 1-15, 1935 January 16-31, 1935 February, 1935 March, 1935
14	April, 1935 May 1-15, 1935 May 16-31, 1935 June 1-20, 1935 June 21-30, 1935 July 1-15, 1935

CONTAINERCONTENTSPolitical Cartoons, 1932-1943

15	July 16-31, 1935 August 1-10, 1935 August 11-31, 1935 September, 1935 October, 1935 November, 1935 December, 1935
16	January, 1936 February, 1936 March, 1936 April, 1936
<del>17</del>	May, 1936 June 1-20, 1936 June 21-30, 1936 <del>July, 1936</del>
18 17	August, 1936 September, 1936 October 1-16, 1936
19 18	October 17-31, 1936 November 1-10, 1936 November 11-30, 1936 December, 1936
20	January 1-15, 1937 January 16-31, 1937 February 1-15, 1937 February 16-28, 1937 March 1-15, 1937
21	March 16-31, 1937 April 1-15, 1937 April 16-30, 1937 May 1-19, 1937 May 20-31, 1937
22	June 1-15, 1937 June 16-31, 1937 July 1-15, 1937 July 16-31, 1937

CONTAINERCONTENTSPolitical Cartoons, 1932-1943

23	August 1-16, 1937 August 17-31, 1937 September 1-20, 1937 September 21-30, 1937
24	October 1-13, 1937 October 14-31, 1937 November 1-17, 1937
25	November 18-30, 1937 December 1-17, 1937 December 18-31, 1937
26	January 1-10, 1938 January 11-20, 1938 January 21-31, 1938
27	February, 1938 March 1-20, 1938 March 21-31, 1938 April 1-9, 1938
28	April 10-15, 1938 April 16-23, 1938 April 24-30, 1938 May 1-15, 1938
29	May 16-31, 1938 June 1-10, 1938 June 11-20, 1938 June 21-30, 1938 July 1-10, 1938 July 11-20, 1938
30	July 21-31, 1938 August 1-15, 1938 August 16-31, 1938 September 1-10, 1938 September 11-30, 1938
31	October, 1938 November 1-15, 1938 November 16-30, 1938 December 1-15, 1938 December 16-31, 1938

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- 32            January 1-10, 1939  
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              February 1-10, 1939  
              February 11-20, 1939  
              February 21-28, 1939
- 33            March 1-12, 1939  
              March 13-31, 1939  
              April 1-15, 1939  
              April 16-22, 1939  
              April 23-30, 1939
- 34            May 1-12, 1939  
              May 13-23, 1939  
              May 24-31, 1939  
              June 1-10, 1939  
              June 11-19, 1939
- 35            June 20-30, 1939  
              July 1-15, 1939  
              July 16-31, 1939  
              August 1-10, 1939
- 36            August 11-20, 1939  
              August 21-31, 1939  
              September, 1939  
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- 37            January 1-15, 1940  
              January 16-31, 1940  
              February 1-14, 1940  
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              April 1-15, 1940  
              April 16-30, 1940  
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- 39            June, 1940  
              July 1-15, 1940  
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41	October 6-10, 1940 October 11-15, 1940 October 16-20, 1940 October 21-25, 1940 October 26-28, 1940
42	October 29-31, 1940 November 1-3, 1940 November 4-7, 1940 December, 1940
43	January 1-15, 1941 January 16-31, 1941 February, 1941 March, 1941 April, 1941 May, 1941 June, 1941
44	July, 1941 August, 1941 September, 1941 October, 1941 November, 1941 December, 1941
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- 48            1938  
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- 49            July 25, 1939  
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- 50            August 1-5, 1939  
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- 51            October, 1939  
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- 52            November 20, 1939  
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              November 30, 1939  
              December 1-10, 1939  
              December 11-31, 1939
- 56            January, 1940  
              February, 1940  
              March, 1940  
              April, 1940
- 57            May 2-8, 1940  
              May 9-June, 1940  
              July 1-4, 1940  
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- 58            July 5, 1940  
              July 6-7, 1940  
              July 8, 1940
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              July 17-24, 1940  
              July 25, 1940
- 60            July 26-31, 1940  
              August 1-10, 1940  
              August 11-14, 1940  
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- 61            August 24, 1940  
              August 24, 1940  
              August 25, 1940  
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- 62            August 29, 1940  
              August 30-31, 1940  
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- 65            July 4, 1941  
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- 66            July 5, 1941  
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              August 25-31, 1941
- 68            September 1, 1941  
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              September 2, 1941
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              October-November, 1941  
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- 77 Roosevelt, Sarah D.: Death of,  
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- 81 National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis,  
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- 82 President's Birthday Ball, 1933-1934  
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