



Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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A GUIDE TO NEW DEAL RESOURCES IN THE ROOSEVELT LIBRARY

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is the nation's first presidential library. It preserves 18,000 cubic feet of manuscript materials, printed materials, audio-visual collections, and ephemera as well as nearly 30,000 museum objects related to Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and the Roosevelt-era. Finding aids and other information on researching at the Library can be accessed through the Library's website at www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu

It is important to remember that the Roosevelt Library primarily houses personal papers collections, rather than Federal records. These manuscript collections document the interaction of the President, Mrs. Roosevelt and various New Deal-era officials with each other, with the American people, and with the various agencies and departments of government. The official records of those agencies and departments, including those records documenting individual New Deal projects around the country, are located in the National Archives.

This guide attempts to summarize the variety of resources available at the Roosevelt Library for the study of the New Deal. It is by no means exhaustive. The manuscript collections have been divided into broad categories for easy reference purposes. However, it should be noted that like the New Deal itself, many New Dealers were involved in many types of projects at once or successively. So the classification of a manuscript collection as pertaining to "public works," for example, should not be considered as exclusionary of potentially relevant materials related to other New Deal topics.

Manuscript Collections—General:

Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers, President's Official Files, 1933-1945 (907 cu.ft.). Arranged using a numerical, topically-based filing system, these files reflect FDR's interaction with the government on an official or policy-making basis. Included are files on the various departments and agencies of government and particular New Deal programs containing letters, memoranda, recommendations and approvals for action, documents related to the organization of agencies and the appointment of officials, materials related to appropriations and disbursements of funds, and letters from the public relevant to governmental actions. Extensive files cover the range of New Deal alphabet agencies, including FERA, CCC, NRA, TVA, PWA, WPA, NYA, FSA and others.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers, President's Personal Files, 1933-1945 (500 cu.ft.). Arranged using a numerical, topically-based filing system similar to the Official Files, these files reflect FDR's interactions on a more personal or political level. Included are files on individual persons, public and private organizations, heads of state, and topics relevant to the President's personal life and family. Of

particular interest are the hundreds of thousands of letters from the public, including letters reacting to the President's speeches, letters in support and opposition to the President's policies, and the famous "Clergy Letters": letters from over 100,000 members of the clergy responding to a 1935 letter from FDR asking for their observations of the success of the New Deal in their areas and seeking recommendations on how it could work better. Also included in this collection are transcripts of the nearly 1,000 press conferences FDR held during his presidency, which include candid assessments of policies and programs.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers, President's Secretary's Files, 1933-1945 (87 cu.ft.). Although a much smaller collection than the other main segments of the President's Papers, this collection is in some ways more important because it contains documents that FDR considered to be so sensitive, personal, confidential, or needed for ready reference that he asked they be filed in his secretary's office near the Oval Office rather than in the file room of the White House. Included are files on the departments and agencies of government containing correspondence with agency heads, reports on political or administrative problems, and issues requiring direct presidential action.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers, President's Master Speech File, 1898-1945 (44 cu.ft.). This collection contains the statements of President Roosevelt, including written Messages to Congress, State of the Union addresses, major policy speeches, and campaign speeches. The files contain drafts, reading copies, and fascinating as-delivered transcripts showing what FDR dropped out of the speech and what he ad-libbed during delivery. Particularly relevant to the New Deal are the written Messages to Congress proposing legislation, the New Deal-era Fireside Chats, and the campaign addresses of the 1936 presidential election and of the 1938 mid-term election in which FDR attempted to "purge" the Democratic Party of non-liberals.

Eleanor Roosevelt Papers, 1877-1964 (890 cu.ft.). This collection documents the life and career of this extraordinary First Lady and humanitarian. The White House Years materials are arranged in large series by nature of correspondence and then by name of correspondent and date. New Deal relevant resources within this collection include ER's correspondence with government departments urging action on behalf of particular individuals or seeking information or explanation of governmental actions; materials related to ER's unprecedented policy-based press conferences; trip files documenting ER's thousands of miles of travels across the country examining conditions and the effectiveness of New Deal programs; personal correspondence with important figures in the country and in the administration; the Requests for Material Assistance files in which average Americans tell of their plight and seek clothing, money, help finding a job, or just ER's sympathy; and the Speech and Article files, particularly ER's daily column "My Day" begin in late-1935 that served not only as a record of her activities but as a platform for her advocacy.

Louis McHenry Howe Official Papers, 1912-1936 (37 cu.ft.). FDR's most important political adviser, Howe also served as principal secretary to the President during the first term. Consequently, he was heavily involved in the establishment of many early New Deal programs (particularly the Civilian Conservation Corps), the appointment of key personnel to those agencies, and running political interference for the "Boss." Howe's papers reflect his intimate involvement in the administration at all levels.

Samuel I. Rosenman Papers, 1928-1972 (59 cu.ft.). Principal legal counsel and speechwriter to FDR, Rosenman helped form the Brains Trust during the 1932 campaign and assisted in crafting the President's message throughout the administration.

Henry Morgenthau, Jr. Papers and Diaries, 1866-1960 (388 cu.ft.). A longtime friend and Hudson Valley neighbor, Morgenthau became Treasury Secretary in late 1933. His title as Treasury Secretary belies the influence he had in all aspects of the Roosevelt Administration. Heavily involved in finance and monetary matters, Morgenthau also oversaw the administration of extensive New Deal public works and arts projects. In addition to his traditional papers, Morgenthau kept a diary that was essentially his "in-basket" in bound form, made up of important memoranda, letters and other documents, transcripts of his meetings and telephone conversations, and printed materials. The diaries total nearly 900 volumes and are subject indexed.

James H. Rowe, Jr. Papers, 1924-1984 (79 cu.ft.). Rowe was one of the many bright young lawyers that came to Washington to work in the New Deal. During FDR's first term, he served at various times as attorney to the National Emergency Council, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Department of Labor, the Power Division of Public Works Administration, and the Security Exchange Commission. After working for the Democratic National Committee during the 1936 campaign, Rowe worked in the White House, later becoming the first Administrative Assistant to the President, one of the "assistants with a passion for anonymity" made possible by FDR's reorganization of the Executive Branch.

Manuscript Collections—Public Works/Arts Projects:

Harry L. Hopkins Papers, 1928-1946 (169 cu.ft.). Later nick-named "Lord Root of the Matter" by Winston Churchill, Hopkins was a key figure in the New Deal as well. A social worker from Iowa, Hopkins first came to FDR's notice as the administrator of relief in New York State during Roosevelt's governorship. Hopkins was so competent, efficient and honest in his work that FDR brought him to Washington to head the new Federal Emergency Relief Administration and then the WPA. Hopkins's papers include extensive administrative files on FERA and the WPA as well as a wonderful series of field reports from state administrators advising of successes, failures and political problems in each state's relief district. Also of great interest are Lorena Hickok's reports to Hopkins as she traveled around the country to provide him unvarnished examinations of relief efforts and conditions.

Aubrey Williams Papers, 1914-1959 (16 cu.ft.). A trained social worker, Williams joined the Roosevelt Administration in 1933 as a field representative for FERA, eventually becoming assistant administrator. In 1935 he became the executive director of the National Youth Administration, a position he would hold until 1943.

Wayne Coy Papers, 1919-1956 (18 cu.ft.). Initially involved with work relief issues on the state level in his native Indiana, Coy served as Indiana State Administrator and a Regional Administrator of the Works Progress Administration and later served as an assistant administrator in the Federal Security Agency.

John Carmody Papers, 1900-1966 (102 cu.ft.). Carmody was first named chief engineer of the Civil Works Administration in 1933. He later served as Rural Electrification Administrator before being made head of the Federal Works Administration in 1939.

Lorena Hickok Papers, 1913-1962 (7 cu.ft.). Known today primarily as a close friend and confidante of Eleanor Roosevelt, Hickok was also a skilled newspaper reporter and observer of the human condition. During the early New Deal period, she traveled the country by car as a roving investigator for Harry Hopkins and FERA, sending Hopkins regular and candid reports on the effectiveness of local relief administrations and the physical and mental conditions of those receiving relief. Her correspondence with Eleanor Roosevelt is also included in this collection.

Pare Lorentz Papers, 1936-1990 (24 cu.ft.). Known as “FDR’s Filmmaker,” Lorentz was an influential film critic, writer and documentary filmmaker. He is best known for his award-winning films “The Plow That Broke the Plains” and “The River” that documented the conditions of the Dust Bowl and along the Mississippi River during the Depression. He later took as his life’s work the creation of a comprehensive chronology of the life and times of Franklin Roosevelt.

Olin Dows Papers, 1886-1986 (6 cu.ft.). A Hudson Valley neighbor of the Roosevelts, Olin Dows was an accomplished artist. From 1934-1936, Dows served as an administrator in the Treasury Department’s Section of Fine Arts. In 1939, he received a commission to paint the murals in the Rhinebeck, New York Post Office, and in 1941, at the suggestion of President Roosevelt, Dows was commissioned to design and paint the murals in the Hyde Park Post Office as well.

Marlene Park and Gerald E. Markowitz New Deal Art Research Collection (16 cu.ft.). This collection contains the research files of these two authors used in producing their scholarly works *New Deal for Art* and *Democratic Vistas*. Included in the collection are documents provided to the authors by New Deal artists, exhibition catalogs and reports of the PWA and WPA/Fine Arts Project, copies of files from the National Archives and the New York City Art Commission Archives, files on projects arranged by state and town, photocopies of other scholarly works about New Deal arts projects, card files of artists’ names and works, and black and white photo files (primarily from NARA).

Manuscript Collections—Economics and Finance:

Adolf A. Berle, Jr., 1912-1974 Papers (120 cu.ft.). An original member of FDR’s Brains Trust that formulated the policies that would become the New Deal, Berle was an expert on corporations and corporate law and regulation. During the New Deal, he advised FDR on business issues, helped draft banking legislation, and served as counsel to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Leon Henderson Papers, 1933-1955 (25 cu.ft.). An economist and consumer advocate outside of government during the initial months of the New Deal, Henderson openly criticized the NRA’s anti-consumer practices. This resulted in his being brought into the NRA’s Research and Planning Division as special adviser on consumer affairs. His studies of the inefficiencies and unfairness of the NRA pricing codes would help bring the NRA into disfavor and ultimate abolishment. He remained in government as an economics adviser to FDR, investigating monopolistic practices, and playing a significant role in the adoption of Keynesian economic theories by the government.

John H. Fahey Papers, 1900-1950 (8 cu.ft.). Originally a newspaperman and businessman from New Hampshire, Fahey would serve in the Roosevelt Administration as chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, chairman of the Home Owners Loan Corporation, and chairman of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

Charles W. Taussig Papers, 1929-1948 (56 cu.ft.). One of FDR's original Brains Trusters, Taussig was an expert in the field of economics. In addition, Taussig would serve as chairman of the President's Advisory Committee to the National Youth Administration, helping to establish policy for the NYA's national, state and local programs.

Alexander Sachs Papers, 1874-1973 (205 cu.ft.). An economist and consultant in economic administration, Sachs worked as an independent economics advisor to FDR and several New Deal agencies, including the NRA, the National Policy Committee, and the President's Power Pool Conference. He is perhaps most famous for delivering Albert Einstein's 1939 letter to FDR that resulted in the establishment of the Manhattan Project.

Gardiner Means Papers, 1922-1987 (54 cu.ft.). Means began his government career in 1933 as an economic adviser on finance to Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace. Means later served as a member of the Consumers Advisory Board of the NRA, as director of the Industrial Section of the National Resources Committee, and as economic adviser to the National Resources Planning Board.

Manuscript Collections—Agriculture:

Rexford Guy Tugwell Papers, 1911-1962 (60 cu.ft.). Also an original Brains Truster, Tugwell was an economist specializing in agriculture issues. He was heavily involved in crafting the Agriculture Adjustment Act, served as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, and later became head of the Resettlement Administration. He was particularly interested in suburban resettlement, which included the concept of the Greenbelt Communities.

Gardner Jackson Papers, 1912-1965 (41 cu.ft.). A controversial figure in the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Jackson was fired from the AAA in 1935 over disagreements concerning milk policy and the treatment of sharecroppers by the AAA. He became an advocate for improving the conditions of sharecroppers and other farm workers, and became heavily involved in organizations such as the National Committee on Rural Social Planning and the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. He would later return to the Agriculture Department in 1941 as Special Assistant working with the Farm Security Administration.

Claude Wickard Papers, 1903-1967 (31 cu.ft.). An agriculturalist from Indiana, Wickard joined the government in 1933 as assistant chief of the AAA's corn-hog section, becoming chief in 1935. He was soon made director of the agency's agricultural conservation program. He would become FDR's Secretary of Agriculture in 1940 when Henry Wallace resigned to run on the Democratic ticket with FDR as the vice-presidential nominee.

Mordecai Ezekiel Papers, 1918-1975 (21 cu.ft.). An expert in agricultural economics, Ezekiel is credited with formulating the details of what would become the Agriculture Adjustment Act, and he met with president-elect Roosevelt in late 1932 to discuss farm policy of the new administration. From 1933-1944, Ezekiel served as Economic Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture.

Louis H. Bean Papers, 1896-1994 (17 cu.ft.). Bean served as economic advisor to the AAA and was a member of a group of advisors in the Agriculture Department that Secretary Henry A. Wallace would turn to for objective information uninfluenced by politics.

Manuscript Collections—Public Power and Water:

Morris L. Cooke Papers, 1910-1954 (74 cu.ft.). A consulting engineer and public power expert, Cooke served as the first head of the Rural Electrification Administration and as the Director of the Water Resources Section of the National Resources Board.

Leland Olds Papers, 1848-1960 (139 cu.ft.). Initially an expert in economic problems and labor, Olds became one of the most influential proponents of public power development. As executive director of the Power Authority of New York from 1931-1939, Olds was directly involved with the hydro-electric development of the St. Lawrence River. In this capacity, he was a regular adviser to the Roosevelt Administration on public power and hydro-electric issues and would eventually serve on the Federal Power Commission.

Herbert S. Marks Papers, 1933-1946 (25 cu.ft.). Marks served as assistant general counsel to the TVA from 1934-1939 and later as general counsel of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Manuscript Collections—Housing:

John Ihlder Papers, 1897-1958 (57 cu.ft.). These papers document the life and work of John Ihlder, a public planning, housing and zoning expert who served on Washington DC's National Capitol Housing Authority. He also was involved in organizations and agencies associated with the planning and rehabilitation of communities nationwide. Ihlder also accumulated an extensive pamphlet collection related to housing issues that totals another 35 cubic feet.

Manuscript Collections—Labor:

Charles Fahy Papers, 1933-1957 (43 cu.ft.). An example of the young lawyers who came to Washington in the early days of the New Deal, Fahy became First Solicitor of the Interior Department in April 1933. He later served as the primary administrator for the National Recovery Administration's Petroleum Code, and then went on to become the General Counsel of the newly created National Labor Relations Board in 1935.

Hilda W. Smith Papers, 1884-1972 (18 cu.ft.). A pioneer in workers' education, Smith was appointed a Specialist in FERA in 1933 and later became director of the WPA's Workers' Service Program that established centers in 35 states to train unemployed teachers in working with labor. She also organized schools and camps that educated 8,000 unemployed women.

Microfilm Resources:

Civilian Conservation Corps Records, Minutes of the Advisory Council to the Director, 1933-1942 (2 reels). Originals in the National Archives

Hallie Flanagan Davis Papers, 1935-1939 (17 reels). Davis served as director of the WPA's Federal Theatre Project from 1936-1939. In addition to personal and administrative correspondence, this collection contains synopses of several hundred FTP productions, complete playscripts for significant productions, reviews, press clippings, photographs, and scrapbooks. Originals in the New York Public Library Theatre Collection.

Harold L. Ickes Diaries and Selected Papers, 1910-1952 (21 reels). Ickes served as FDR's Secretary of the Interior throughout the entire administration and was administrator of the PWA. He and Harry Hopkins were often in conflict over the nature and speed of work relief, and the diaries provide a revealing, if not altogether unbiased, window into the dynamics of New Deal policymaking. Originals in the Library of Congress.

National Emergency Council Proceedings, 1933-1936 (1 reel). Originals in the National Archives.

Henry A. Wallace Papers and Diary, 1888-1996 (164 reels). This NHPRC microform publication makes available the complete papers of Henry A. Wallace, FDR's Secretary of Agriculture (1933-1940), Vice President (1941-1945), and Secretary of Commerce (1945). Originals in the Roosevelt Library, Library of Congress, and University of Iowa Library.

Works Progress Administration Index to Projects in New York State (9 reels). Contains reproductions of the individual project index cards including information such as county, town, location, type of project, and total monies spent. Originals in the National Archives

Audio-Visual Resources:

The Library's Prints and Photographs Collection contains some 130,000 images of the Roosevelts and the Roosevelt-era. In addition to the expected images of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and their activities and travels, the Library has a solid collection of photographs taken of New Deal projects around the country, of economic and social conditions during the Depression, and of various New Deal officials and administrators.

The Audio Collection contains nearly a thousand recorded speeches by Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt as well as an extensive selection of WPA and NYA music on sound disc.

The Film and Video Collection contains over 200,000 feet of public domain and copyrighted newsreel film, primarily of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt but including a limited amount related to New Deal projects.

Printed Materials Resources:

The Library's Book Collection includes some 51,000 volumes on the Roosevelts and the Roosevelt-era. Included is FDR's own personal library of over 21,000 books. New Deal-related resources run the gamut from contemporary and current scholarly examinations, to hard-to-find reports and studies produced by the various New Deal agencies and government departments, to period works on issues such as agriculture, labor, forestry, public power, welfare and work relief. The entire book catalog can be searched electronically through the Library's website at www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/bookcoll.html.

The Periodical Collection includes popular magazines from the New Deal period such as *Life* and *Time*, but also nearly 1500 modern scholarly examinations of such New Deal topics as the Clergy Letters, Eleanor Roosevelt and the roles of women in the New Deal, race, labor, agriculture and union issues, state and regional issues, industrialization, and the role of government.

The Printed Materials Collection is a unique collection totaling some 300 cubic feet and comprised of government documents generated during the Roosevelt Administration. It includes pamphlets, reports, studies and hearings produced by the various departments and agencies of government as well as by the Congress and its committees.

Museum Collection:

The Library's Museum Collection includes over 400 artifacts related to the New Deal, including materials produced and used by such agencies as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), National Youth Administration (NYA), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and others. Artifacts include a rich collection of textiles, prints and paintings, posters, sculptural pieces and other art produced during the New Deal as well as buttons, cartoons, stickers, and tools. The collection also includes a small group of commemorative material of more recent vintage related to the various agencies comprising the New Deal.