

John Callan O'Laughlin Papers
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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81035055>

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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: John Callan O'Laughlin Papers

Span Dates: 1895-1949

ID No.: MSS35355

Creator: O'Laughlin, John Callan, 1873-1949

Extent: 45,000 items

Extent: 107 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 42.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81035055>

Summary: Politician, statesman, newspaperman, and publisher. Correspondence, memoranda, diaries, journals, writings, reports, printed material, scrapbooks, and records of the *Army and Navy Journal* documenting O'Laughlin's career as a newspaperman and advocate of Republican Party and conservative causes.

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

Beveridge, Albert Jeremiah, 1862-1927--Correspondence.
Chautemps, Camille, 1885-1963--Correspondence.
Colby, Bainbridge, 1869-1950--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Copley, Ira, 1864-1947--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Dawes, Charles Gates, 1865-1951--Correspondence.
Dearing, Fred Morris, 1879-1963--Correspondence.
Dewey, Thomas E. (Thomas Edmund), 1902-1971--Correspondence.
Gibson, Hugh, 1883-1954--Correspondence.
Glazebrook, Otis Allan, 1887-1954--Correspondence.
Goethals, George W. (George Washington), 1858-1928--Correspondence.
Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947--Correspondence.
Hart, Thomas Charles--Correspondence.
Hays, Will H. (Will Harrison), 1879-1954--Correspondence.
Hilles, Charles Dewey, 1867-1949--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Hurley, Patrick J. (Patrick Jay), 1883-1963--Correspondence.
Johnson, Hiram, 1866-1945--Correspondence.
Joslin, Theodore G. (Theodore Goldsmith), 1890-1944--Correspondence.
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937--Correspondence.
Klein, Julius, 1901-1984--Correspondence.
Lane, Arthur Bliss, 1894-1956--Correspondence.
Lasker, Albert Davis, 1880-1952--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
Loeb, William, Jr., 1866-1937--Correspondence.
Loomis, Francis B. (Francis Butler), 1861-1948--Correspondence.
MacArthur, Douglas, 1880-1964--Correspondence.
McReynolds, James Clark, 1862-1946--Correspondence.
Mitchell, J. G. (James G.)--Correspondence.
Mitchell, William, 1879-1936--Trials, litigation, etc.
Morrow, Dwight W. (Dwight Whitney), 1873-1931--Correspondence.

Moseley, George Van Horn, 1874-1960--Correspondence.
 New, Harry S. (Harry Stewart), 1858-1937--Correspondence.
 Nomura, Kichisaburō, 1877-1964--Correspondence.
 O'Laughlin, John Callan, 1873-1949.
 O'Laughlin, Mabel Hudson, 1876-1947--Correspondence.
 Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.
 Pinchot, Gifford, 1865-1946--Correspondence.
 Richey, Lawrence, 1885-1959--Correspondence.
 Rinehart, Mary Roberts, 1876-1958--Correspondence.
 Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1861-1948--Correspondence.
 Roosevelt, Eleanor Butler, 1889-1960--Correspondence.
 Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.
 Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
 Sarnoff, David, 1891-1971--Correspondence.
 Smoot, Reed, 1862-1941--Correspondence.
 Spring Rice, Cecil, Sir, 1859-1918--Correspondence.
 Sternburg, Hermann Speck von, Freiherr, 1852-1908--Correspondence.
 Stettinius, Edward R., Jr. (Edward Reilly), 1900-1949--Correspondence.
 Straus, Oscar S. (Oscar Solomon), 1850-1926--Correspondence.
 Sullivan, Lawrence, 1898- --Correspondence.
 Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1867-1955--Correspondence.
 Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
 Takahira, Kogoro, Baron, 1854-1926--Correspondence.
 Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence.
 Tumulty, Joseph P. (Joseph Patrick), 1879-1954--Correspondence.
 Walsh, David I. (David Ignatius), 1872-1947--Correspondence.
 White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.
 Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.
 Wood, Robert C. (Robert Crooke), 1832-1900--Correspondence.
 Woodring, Harry Hines, 1887-1967--Correspondence.

Organizations

Lord & Thomas.
 Norwich University.
 Republican Party (U.S. : 1854-)
 United States. Congress.

Subjects

Advertising agencies--Illinois--Chicago.
 Advertising--United States.
 Lobbying--United States.
 New Deal, 1933-1939.
 Patronage, Political--United States.
 Universities and colleges--Vermont--Northfield.
 World War, 1914-1918--Europe.

Places

United States--Armed Forces--Periodicals.
 United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
 United States--Military policy.
 United States--Politics and government--1933-1945.
 Venezuela--Boundaries.
 Venezuela--History--Anglo German Blockade, 1902.
 Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Titles

Army and Navy journal.

Occupations

Newspapermen.
Politicians.
Publishers.
Statesmen.

Provenance

The papers of John Callan O'Laughlin, politician, statesman, newspaperman, and publisher of the *Army and Navy Journal*, were given to the Library of Congress by Dorothy C. Brown, Celine C. Griffith, and Harlan C. Brown in 1964-1966.

Processing History

The O'Laughlin Papers were processed circa 1965. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

The John Callan O'Laughlin Papers are described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* 22, no. 4 (October 1965): 327. A calendar of correspondence between O'Laughlin and Herbert Hoover is available in the Manuscript Reading Room. The calendar is also available as a [PDF](#) document.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Callan O'Laughlin is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The O'Laughlin Papers 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, John Callan O'Laughlin Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1873, Jan. 11	Born, Washington, D.C.
1894	Attended Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1896	Married Mabel Hudson
1893-1902	Newspaper correspondent, <i>New York Herald</i> Washington bureau
1902	Reported Venezuelan blockade by European powers
1903-1904	Newspaper correspondent, <i>Associated Press</i> , European bureau
1904-1905	Reported on Russo-Japanese War from Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia
1905-1914	Newspaper correspondent, <i>Chicago Tribune</i> , European and Washington bureaus

1908	Secretary, United States Commission to Tokyo Exposition, Tokyo, Japan
1909	Appointed first under secretary of state
1909	Secretary to Theodore Roosevelt on his African and European trips
1910	Published <i>With Roosevelt from the Jungles through Europe</i> . Boston: Chapple Publishing Co.
1912	Delegate, Progressive Party national convention, Chicago, Ill.
1914	Director of <i>Chicago Tribune's</i> Christmas ship bringing gifts to children of Europe
1914-1917	Newspaper correspondent, <i>Chicago Herald</i> , Washington bureau
1916	Published <i>Imperiled America</i> . Chicago: Reilly & Britton Co.
1917	Vice president, Lord and Thomas Advertising Co.
1918-1919	Served in American Expeditionary Forces as an aide to General George W. Goethals, an officer in the intelligence section, and as secretary for the United States Interallied Munitions Council
1920	Executive secretary, Policy Committee of the Republican National Party
1925-1949	Owner and publisher <i>Army-Navy Journal</i>
1932	Member, Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1933-1934	Assistant to chairman, Republican National Committee
1933-1947	Distributed unofficial weekly newsletter to ex-President Herbert Hoover and other major figures
1941-1949	Member and coordinator, D.C. Selective Service Board of Appeals
1949, Mar. 14	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Callan O'Laughlin (1873-1949) span the years 1895-1964 and consist mainly of correspondence supplemented by printed matter, reports, memoranda, and *Army-Navy Journal* material. The later years of the collection, 1933-1949, are covered in greater detail than the earlier years. The correspondence accounts for about two-thirds of the material in the collection. The papers are organized into four series: [General Correspondence](#), [Printed Matter](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Army-Navy Journal](#).

O'Laughlin's career covered a variety of fields and interests, most of them well documented in the collection. Certain areas of his life, such as his newspaper reporting, his newspaper management, and his interest in military policy and in foreign affairs, are dealt with in great detail. Although active on the national scene for over fifty years, O'Laughlin often remained in the background, but his influence extended to the highest levels of the Republican Party.

The early years of his working life were spent as a newspaper correspondent in the United States, Europe, and South America. During this period, 1895-1912, he became closely associated with Theodore Roosevelt and often acted as an unofficial agent for the president. In 1909 he was rewarded for his services by being appointed first assistant under secretary of state for the last three months of the Roosevelt administration. The collection is weakest for this period of O'Laughlin's life, yet there is a sizable correspondence with such figures as Albert Jeremiah Beveridge, George W. Goethals, Frank B. Kellogg, William Loeb, Francis B. Loomis, Theodore Roosevelt, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, Edward R. Stettinius, Freiherr Hermann Speck von Sternburg, William H. Taft, Baron Kogoro Takahira, Joseph P. Tumulty, and Leonard Wood.

In 1914 O'Laughlin directed the *Chicago Tribune's* Christmas ship that sent gifts to the children of European countries. When the United States entered the war, he enlisted, was appointed a major, and played an active part in the war and the negotiations that followed. While in Europe he corresponded regularly with his wife, and this almost daily correspondence provides a detailed account of his overseas activity. In this brief military career he became acquainted with military figures such as Generals George W. Goethals and John J. Pershing.

In 1925, following a stint as vice president of the Lord and Thomas advertising agency in Chicago, O'Laughlin purchased the *Army-Navy Journal*. Correspondence in the collection treats the advertising aspects of O'Laughlin's life as well as his involvement in the 1920s with Ira Copley. Copley was associated with large power industries engaged at the time in enlarging and consolidating their holdings. Copley was accused of using his newspaper interests, of which O'Laughlin was a manager, to further his financial interests. Progressives such as Senators Robert M. La Follette (1855-1925) and George W. Norris attacked the power trusts, and the correspondence between O'Laughlin, Copley, and their business associates illustrates the intensity of this attack.

Correspondents from the 1920s include Bainbridge Colby, Calvin Coolidge, Ira Copley, Charles Gates Dawes, Fred Morris Dearing, Hugh Gibson, Otis Allan Glazebrook, James G. Harbord, Will H. Hays, Charles Dewey Hilles, Herbert Hoover, Patrick J. Hurley, Hiram Johnson, Arthur Bliss Lane, Albert Davis Lasker, Henry Cabot Lodge, Dwight W. Morrow, Douglas MacArthur, James Clark McReynolds, Harry S. New, John J. Pershing, David Sarnoff, Reed Smoot, and Charles Pelot Summerall.

When the Democrats took office in 1933, O'Laughlin devoted less time to politics and more time to the *Army-Navy Journal*. He turned the *Army-Navy Journal* into a sounding board for Republican opinion and criticism of President Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal. The editorials in the *Journal* reflect conservative opinion toward the New Deal. The drafts of many of these editorials are contained in the collection. Correspondence concerning the Democratic administration of the 1930s and the 1940s, especially in relation to military affairs, is voluminous.

In 1933 O'Laughlin began the practice of sending a weekly newsletter to Hoover, Pershing, and Sarnoff. The newsletter was sent to inform them of inside developments in the Washington political scene and reflect his conservative philosophy and criticism of the New Deal. Copies of the newsletter are in the correspondence files of the recipients, with a nearly complete set in the Hoover letters. Others received it occasionally, usually on request, including military figures connected with the Republican Party such as Douglas MacArthur, George Van Horn Moseley, and Thomas Charles Hart.

O'Laughlin corresponded in the 1930s and the 1940s with individuals such as Camile Chautemps, Josephus Daniels, Thomas E. Dewey, Thomas Charles Hart, Theodore G. Joslin, Julius Klien, James G. Mitchell, George Van Horn Moseley, Kichisaburp Nomura, Gifford Pinchot, Lawrence Richey, Mary Roberts Rinehart, Edith Kermit Carow, Roosevelt, Eleanor Butler Alexander Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Oscar S. Straus, Lawrence Sullivan, Harry S. Truman, David I. Walsh, William Allen White, Robert C. Wood, and Harry Hines Woodring.

Other topics covered in the correspondence include personal affairs, the growth of advertising in the United States, lobbying activities in Congress, the Venezuelan blockade of 1902, legislation affecting military matters, military policy during wartime, patronage, the Billy Mitchell court-martial trial, Washington social life, and Norwich University in Vermont.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [General Correspondence, 1896-1949](#)
- [Printed Matter, 1895-1949](#)
- [Miscellany, 1895-1949](#)
- [Army-Navy Journal, 1921-1948](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-73	<u>General Correspondence, 1896-1949</u> Letters received and copies of letters sent. Organized largely as received in four chronological groupings: 1896-1912, 1913-1918, 1919-1932, and 1933-1949.
BOX 74-92	<u>Printed Matter, 1895-1949</u> Clippings, speeches, maps, war orders, reports, pamphlets, Christmas cards, calling cards, invitations, bankbooks, passports, awards, scrapbooks, and a letterpress book. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 93-103	<u>Miscellany, 1895-1949</u> Income tax returns, manuscripts, sketches, reports, memoranda, financial papers, diaries, journals, an address book, drafts of articles, lists, notes, and a special file of material on the trip of Mrs. I. M. Brown to Europe in 1952. Arranged by the type of material.
BOX 104-109	<u>Army-Navy Journal, 1921-1948</u> Accounts, legal documents, financial papers, circulation reports, constitutions, and related matter. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-73	General Correspondence, 1896-1949 Letters received and copies of letters sent. Organized largely as received in four chronological groupings: 1896-1912, 1913-1918, 1919-1932, and 1933-1949.
BOX 1	1896-1912 "A" miscellaneous "B" miscellaneous Beck, E. S. Beveridge, Albert Jeremiah "C" miscellaneous Central Trust Co. Coulton, George "D" miscellaneous Deitrick, James Dinwiddle, William
BOX 2	"E" miscellaneous "F" miscellaneous "G" miscellaneous "H" miscellaneous Hill, William C. Hudson, Mrs. Samuel "I" miscellaneous "J" miscellaneous "K" miscellaneous Keely, James "L" miscellaneous Limantour, Jose Lincoln, C. M. Loeb, William Loomis, Francis B.
BOX 3	"M" miscellaneous Mason, Victor Moran, Rev. G. E. "Mc" miscellaneous McCormick, Medill "N" miscellaneous Neef, Walter "O" miscellaneous O'Laughlin, Mabel (wife) "P" miscellaneous Progressive Party

General Correspondence, 1896-1949

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	Roosevelt, Theodore
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	Sternburg, Freiherr Hermann Speck von
	Stubbs, Walter
	"S.D." miscellaneous [sic]
	"T" miscellaneous
	Taft, William H.
	Takahira, Baron Kogoro
	<i>Tribune</i>
	"U" miscellaneous
	"V" miscellaneous
	"W" miscellaneous
BOX 5	Washburn, Stanley
	"Y" miscellaneous
	"Z" miscellaneous
	1913-1918
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	Andrews, Philip
	Austrian, Alfred
	"B" miscellaneous
	Barritt, John
	Barry, David S.
	Bone, Scott C.
	"C" miscellaneous
	Central Trust Co.
	Cellere, Vizenso Macchi di
BOX 6	Christmas ship
	Cloran, E. F.
	Continental and Commercial National Bank
	"D" miscellaneous
	"E" miscellaneous
	"F" miscellaneous
	Foreman Brothers Banking Co.
	"G" miscellaneous
	Gerard, James
	Goethals, George W.
	Goldman, Samuel
	Green, Hugh
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	"K" miscellaneous
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General Correspondence, 1896-1949

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BOX 9	Moritz, Rudolph “Mc” miscellaneous McCormick, Medill McGrath, John “N” miscellaneous National Metropolitan Bank Navy League New England Mutual Life Insurance Co. Nolan, D. E. “O” miscellaneous O'Laughlin, Mabel May 1918
BOX 10	June 1918 O'Shaughnessy, Nelson “P” miscellaneous Page, Walter Patchin, Robert H. Polish National Bond Issue Progressive National Committee “Q” miscellaneous “R” miscellaneous
BOX 11	Redfield, William C. Reick, William C. Riggs National Bank Reily, F. K. Reilly, Leigh Rendor, Victor Rogers, H. L. Roosevelt, Theodore “S” miscellaneous Schlesinger, Elmer Selz, Harry Selz, J. H. Spring Rice, Cecil Stettinius, Edward R.
BOX 12	“T” miscellaneous Tumulty, Joseph P. “U” miscellaneous

General Correspondence, 1896-1949

Container	Contents
	“V” miscellaneous “W” miscellaneous Webb, Frank E. Wexler, Sol Wite, Fred Wood, Leonard Wood, Robert C. Wright, Herbert “Y” miscellaneous
BOX 13	1919-1932 “A” miscellaneous Adams, Porter Allen, Henry (luncheon) Anschuler, B. P. Ansell, Samuel T. Armstead, Henry H. <i>Army Navy Journal</i> Circulation complaints Job applications Printing requests Purchase of journal Miscellaneous “Bas” miscellaneous “Bau” miscellaneous Baxin, W. Rene Berman, Samuel E. Best, Hill F. Be Vier and Co. Blackburn, F. E. Bone, Scott C. Brown, Ames Bullis, Elmer E.
BOX 14	“C” miscellaneous
BOX 15	Castner, J. C. Chatham Poenix National Bank Cheny, Harry S. Coe, Franklin Colby, Bainbridge E. Cole, Walter C. Cone, Dorothy M.
BOX 16	Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md. Congressman Coolidge, Calvin Copley, Ira Corlett, Edward Creigh, Thomas

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	Cunningham, J. Harry
	"D" miscellaneous
	Davis, Henry C.
	Dawes, Charles Gates
	Dinger, H. C.
	Dieterich, George N.
	Dearing, Fred Morris
	Denby, Charles
	Douglas, Charles A.
	Drum, Hugh A.
	"E" miscellaneous
	Eames, H. E.
	Editors of newspapers and magazines
	"F" miscellaneous
	Fain, J. Mitchell
	Fleet McGinley Co.
	Fletcher, Henry P.
	Fisher, H. W.
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	Glazebrook, Otis Allan.
	Goethals, George W.
	Goethals Memorial Association
BOX 19	"Her" miscellaneous
	"Hew" miscellaneous
	Hammond, T. W.
	Harbord, James G.
	Harden, Julius H.
	Harvey, George S.
	Hays, Will H.
	Hayward, A. O.
	Hecht, Rudolph
	Heer, Helen H.
	Henderson, Robert
	Hilles, Charles Dewey
	Himes, Joseph H.
	Hinshaw, David
	Hoard, H. L.
	Hoffman, Roy
BOX 20	Holliday, Ralph C.
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General Correspondence, 1896-1949

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	Hutchinson, M. C.
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	New, Harry S.
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	Reick, William C.
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	Responses of congressmen to Billy Mitchell trial
	Ridout, L. C.
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	Seitz, J. Harry
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	Sims, William S.
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	Snook, A. M.
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BOX 32	“B” miscellaneous Bacharach, Issac Bastion, Joseph E. Bennett, Ira E. Best, Hill F. Oct. 1941 Nov. 1941
BOX 33	Block, Paul Bloom, Sol Brayman, Harold Brown, Ashmun Bye, George “C” miscellaneous
BOX 34	Call, Leigh and Mary Cagney, T. George Chadborune, W. A. Chadwick, B. F. Chautemps, Mr. and Mrs. Camile Christmas Greetings Coleman, Frederick W. Collins, Carter Condolences, death of Mabel O'Laughlin
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General Correspondence, 1896-1949

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BOX 37	“Fla” miscellaneous Federal Service Finance Corp. Fleet McGinley Co. Fletcher, Henry P. Fuller, Bruce Gannon, James
BOX 38	Gardner, Charles Gibson, Hugh Gilroy, R. W. Ginsburg, Robert T. Glaseer, Michael Goarrell, Edgar Goethals Memorial Association Sept. 1939 Oct. 1939
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	Kirk, Norman
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