

# Guide to the William Howard Taft Papers

MS 480



compiled by Manuscripts and Archives Staff

February 1980

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 480

**CREATOR:** Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930

**TITLE:** William Howard Taft papers

**DATES:** 1874-1928

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Miscellaneous letters by William Howard Taft, two speeches (one on strikes, the other on liberty under the law) and a colored pen and ink drawing by Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, entitled "Ex-President Taft in Retirement." Among the letters the most important was written to Colonel J.C. Hemphill from the White House, July 28, 1911 and discusses Senator Robert M. La Follette's attempt to introduce protectionist legislation on wool. In a number of letters in 1917 Taft writes to classmates of his Yale College class of 1878 to raise money for a special fund for their fortieth reunion. Also included are copies of notebooks of lectures and other teaching materials (1913-1916) kept while he was Kent Professor at the Yale Law School. A student essay, "The Third Term Question," circa 1874-1875 is included in the papers.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0480>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0480>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired by purchase and gift between 1940-1948, transferred from the Yale Law School, 1983.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

William Howard Taft Papers (MS 480). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library

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### Existence and Location of Copies

Notebooks of lectures and other teaching materials are available on microfilm (circa 600 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM131.

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### Existence and Location of Originals

Two ms. volumes (electrostatic copies) of case study notes, outlines and texts of lectures on constitutional law and government and other matters pertaining to the Yale Law School (1913-1916) date from the period when he served as Kent Professor in the Law School. The originals are in the Yale Law School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Admitted to Ohio bar in 1880; practiced law in Cincinnati, 1883-1887; judge of Superior Court, Cincinnati, 1887-1890; solicitor general of U.S., 1890-1892; U.S. Circuit judge, 1892-1900; president, U.S. Philippines, 1900-1901; first civil governor of Philippines, 1901-1904; secretary of war, 1904-1908; 27th president of U.S., 1909-1913; professor of law, Yale University, 1913-1921; appointed chief justice of U.S., 1921.

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## Scope and Contents

These papers consist of a miscellaneous collection of items — letters, speeches and lecture notes — by William Howard Taft, acquired by purchase or gift between 1940 and 1948. Of the eighteen letters, seven were written while he was president of the United States. The most substantive of these is a letter dated July 28, 1911 which discusses Senator Robert M. LaFollette's attempt to introduce protectionist legislation on wool. Taft's lifelong interest in Yale University is shown in letters on nominees for honorary degrees, in

letters concerning his sons when they were students at the College, and in a group of letters that he wrote to classmates in 1917 in preparation for the class's fortieth reunion.

The collection also includes two speeches, White House memorabilia and a sketch by Sir Francis Carruthers Gould, cartoonist for the *Westminster Gazette*, drawn on Taft's leaving office in 1914.

## Collection Contents

### Letters from William Howard Taft to:

b. 1, f. 1	Clarke, John Proctor, 1856-1932	1917 September 20
b. 1, f. 1	Clemens, Cyril, 1902-	1927 September 30
b. 1, f. 1	Coe, Henry Clarke, 1856-1940	1915 October 5, November 18
b. 1, f. 1	Coolidge, [John] Calvin, Pres. U.S., 1872-1933	1920 June 12
b. 1, f. 1	Day, George Parmly, 1876-1959	1908 June 30
b. 1, f. 1	Gest, Clifford H.	1903 October 22
b. 1, f. 1	Hemphill, John James, 1849-1912	1911 July 28
b. 1, f. 1	Jewett, Carlton Rogers, 1852-1937	1917 August 31
b. 1, f. 1	Jones, Frederick Sheetz, 1862-1944	1914 September 22
b. 1, f. 1	King, Horatio Collins, 1837-1918	1908 June 25
b. 1, f. 1	Law, William Henry, 1856-1915	1904 February 12, 1908 June 25, 1913 April 8, 1914 March 14
b. 1, f. 1	Miller, George Douglas, 1847-1932	1901 April 24, 1907 December 28
b. 1, f. 1	Olcott, Jacob Van Vechten, 1856-1940	1914 February 11
b. 1, f. 1	Porter, Josephine (Sheffield)	1917 September 15
b. 1, f. 1	Sickels, David Banks, 1837-1918	1910 November 2
b. 1, f. 1	Waldo and Marston, Messrs.	[No year] November 22
b. 1, f. 1	Henry Parks, 1838-1918	1910 June 10
b. 1, f. 1	Yale University. Committee on honorary degrees	1910 November 24
b. 1, f. 2	Manuscript, speech on strikes, 13 p., signed and dated on the last page	1919 May 14
b. 1, f. 3	TM (copy) lecture, "Liberty under the law"	[1928 May?]
b. 1, f. 4	Printed cards for receptions at the White House	1910, 1912

b. 1, f. 5	Gould, Sir Francis Carruthers, 1844-1925, drawing of President Taft	[1914]
b. 1, f. 6	Menu of a banquet to celebrate "Perry's victory centennial, 1813-1913..." with notes by Taft	[1913]
b. 1, f. 7	"The Third Term Question"; Student Essay English	Circa 1874-1875
Two manuscript volumes (electrostatic copies) of case study notes, outlines and texts of lectures on constitutional law and government and other matters pertaining to Yale Law School Originals in Law School Library.		
b. 2reel 1U	Volume I This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 131 instead of the originals.	1913-1916
b. 3reel 1U	Volume II This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 131 instead of the originals.	1913-1916
b. 4	Folio. Honorary degree from the University of Cincinnati	

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## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Subjects

Educators  
Law  
Lawyers  
Tariff on wool

### Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government

### Occupations

Politicians

### Names

Clarke, John Proctor, 1856-1932  
Clemens, Cyril, 1902-1999  
Coe, Henry C., 1856-1940  
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933  
Day, George Parmly, 1876-1959  
Gest, Clifford H.  
Gould, F. Carruthers (Francis Carruthers),  
1844-1925  
Hemphill, John J. (John James), 1849-1912  
Jewett, Carlton Rogers, 1852-1937  
Jones, Frederick Scheetz, 1862-1944  
King, Horatio C. (Horatio Collins), 1837-1918  
La Follette, Robert M. (Robert Marion),  
1855-1925  
Law, William Henry, 1856-1915  
Miller, George Douglas, 1847-1932  
Olcott, Jacob Van Vechten, 1856-1940  
Perry, Oliver Hazard, 1785-1819  
Porter, Josephine Earl Sheffield, 1834-  
Sickels, David Banks, 1837-1918  
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930  
Wright, Henry Parks, 1839-1918

### Corporate Bodies

Yale College (1718-1887). Class of 1878  
Yale Law School  
Yale University. Committee on Honorary  
Degrees  
Yale University -- Faculty