

## **Register of the Edwin Francis Gay papers**

Finding aid prepared by Lisa Miller

Hoover Institution Archives

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**Title:** Edwin Francis Gay papers

**Date (inclusive):** 1917-1927

**Collection Number:** XX085

**Contributing Institution:** Hoover Institution Archives

**Language of Material:** English

**Physical Description:** 6 manuscript boxes, 1 roll of charts, 1 oversize folder(2.6 linear feet)

**Abstract:** Correspondence, diary, reports, memoranda, and writings, relating to American economic mobilization and government control of the economy during World War I, and to activities of the Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics, War Industries Board, War Trade Board, Shipping Board, and Commercial Economy Board, and to the American delegation at the Paris Peace Conference. Digital copies of select records also available at <https://digitalcollections.hoover.org>.

**Physical Location:** Hoover Institution Archives

**creator:** Gay, Edwin Francis, 1867-1946

**Access**

The collection is open for research; materials must be requested at least two business days in advance of intended use.

**Accruals**

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. To determine if this has occurred, find the collection in Stanford University's online catalog at <http://searchworks.stanford.edu> . Materials have been added to the collection if the number of boxes listed in the catalog is larger than the number of boxes listed in this finding aid.

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**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Edwin Francis Gay papers, [Box no., Folder no. or title], Hoover Institution Archives.

**Acquisition Information**

Acquired.

**Alternate Forms Available**

Digital copies of select records also available at <https://digitalcollections.hoover.org>.

1867 Oct.

27 Born, Detroit, Michigan

1902-1903 Instructor, Economics, Harvard University

1903-1906 Assistant Professor, Economics, Harvard University

1906-1919 Professor, Economics, Harvard University

1908-1919 Dean, Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University

1917

Apr.-1918 Member, Commercial Economy Board, Council of National Defense

May

1917

Dec.-1918 Special expert, U.S. Shipping Board

Feb?

1918

Feb.-1919 Director, Division of Planning and Statistics, U.S. Shipping Board

Mar.

1918

Feb.-1919 Member, War Trade Board

June

1918

May-1918 Member, Conservation Division, War Industries Board

Dec.

1918

June-1919 Chairman, Division of Planning and Statistics, War Industries Board

Jan.

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1918

June-1919 Director, Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics

June

1920-1923 President, *New York Evening Post*

1924-1936 Professor, Economic History, Harvard University

1936-1941 Member, Research Staff, Huntington Library

1941-1946 Chairman, Huntington Library

1946 Feb. 8 Died

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Edwin Francis Gay papers relate to U.S. government economic mobilization and government control of the economy during World War I. They document Gay's work for agencies that collected and analyzed economic and statistical data to organize the war effort. In particular, the papers provide statistical data about imports and exports, shipping, and trade routes during World War I. They also provide information about the relationship between the U.S. and the Allies, and activities of the U.S. delegation to the Paris Peace Conference.

Gay's diary runs from Dec. 27, 1917, to July 9, 1919, and covers much of his federal service. Diary entries list Gay's meetings, significant actions taken, things to be done, and milestones achieved. Brief notations concerning subject matter are sometimes included, and occasionally there is a more extensive narrative. A lengthy entry about the Chairman of the Shipping Control Committee is attached to the entry for Feb. 12, 1918.

The series Notes for War Controls Book consists of preliminary material collected by Gorton James from 1925 to 1927 for a proposed volume on war controls by Gay, which apparently was not completed. What may be drafts of chapters are available for two subjects, labor and organization for the war. Included are typewritten memoranda of conversations with U.S. wartime figures such as Bernard M. Baruch, Robert S. Brookings, Herbert Hoover, Vance C. McCormick, and Generals George W. Goethals, C. B. Wheeler, and C. C. Williams. Some typewritten speeches and manuscripts written by interviewees are included.

The War File series documents Gay's war work, in which Gay was associated with a confusing array of wartime agencies. The American Commission to Negotiate Peace (Nov. 1918 - Dec. 1919) was organized to negotiate formal treaties ending World War I. Gay corresponded with his staff members assigned to the Commission, and with delegate John Foster Dulles.

The Allied Maritime Transport Council (Mar. 1918 - Apr. 7, 1919) was an inter-allied body that studied and recommended a concerted shipping policy. The American Section of the Council included staff from the Division of Planning and Statistics of the U.S. Shipping Board, which obtained necessary statistical data. Gay corresponded with his statistical staff in London.

The Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics (June 1918 - July 1919) prepared surveys of U.S. government war activities for the President, operated a statistical clearinghouse, and provided economic data to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace. It functioned as an independent agency under the President but reported through the War Industries Board until Dec. 31, 1918, after which it was administered through the War Trade Board. Gay was Chairman of the Central Bureau.

The Commercial Economy Board (Mar. 24, 1917 - May 9, 1918), part of the Council of National Defense, studied commercial business and identified economies to meet war needs, such as standardizing shoe styles. It was superseded by the Conservation Division of the War Industries Board. Dr. A. W. Shaw was Chairman of the Commercial Economy Board and Gay was a member.

The Conservation Division (May 9, 1918 - Dec. 31, 1918), part of the War Industries Board, continued the activities of the Commercial Economy Board. Dr. A. W. Shaw was Chairman of the Conservation Division and Gay was a member.

The Division of Planning and Statistics, part of the U.S. Shipping Board (USSB), was established on Feb. 11, 1918, to record ship movements and study imports and exports to identify essential trade routes. The Division's data formed the basis for recommendations to the Shipping Control Committee for the allocation of ships, and to the War Trade Board for restricting imports. Edward N. Hurley succeeded William Denman as Chairman of the USSB; Gay was Director of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the USSB.

The Shipping Control Committee, part of the USSB, allocated vessels to cargoes and routes and controlled the discharge of U.S. tonnage. The USSB Division of Planning and Statistics assigned a representative to the Committee, which was headquartered in New York. Gay corresponded with his representative and noted problems with Committee Chairman P. A. S. Franklin.

The War Industries Board (WIB; July 28, 1917 - Dec. 31, 1918) analyzed industrial requirements and capacities of the U.S. and the Allies, set priorities in commodity production and delivery, and arranged price-fixing agreements for raw materials. Bernard M. Baruch was Chairman of the WIB. Gay served as a member of the Conservation Division of the WIB and as Chairman of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the WIB. (The Chairman of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the WIB and the Director of the Division of Planning and Statistics of the USSB were separate positions in different

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agencies.)

The War Trade Board (Oct. 12, 1917 - June 30, 1919) controlled imports and exports, and conserved commodities and shipping facilities for U.S. and Allied use. Vance C. McCormick was the Chairman of the War Trade Board and Gay was a member of the Board representing the USSB.

In the War File series, papers relating to peace negotiations and international cooperation are in the file American Commission to Negotiate Peace - General Records. Weekly reports and staff conference summaries of the Division and Planning and Statistics (USSB) for July-August 1918 are attached to letters in the file Division of Planning and Statistics - Correspondence. The Division of Planning and Statistics (USSB) file Special Report to Edwin Francis Gay on P. A. S. Franklin, 1918, contains documentation of differences with the Shipping Control Committee Chairman about tonnage allocation between trade and military purposes and data sharing with the Allied Maritime Transport Council.

The series Printed Matter includes speeches by Bernard M. Baruch at the Army War College and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Printed reports of federal agency offices headed by Gay are in the War File series.

The bulk of Gay's papers are housed at the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

### **Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)

United States. Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics.

United States. Council of National Defense. Commercial Economy Board.

United States. Shipping Board.

United States. War Industries Board.

United States. War Trade Board.

Economists.

United States--Foreign relations.

United States--Politics and government.

World War, 1914-1918--Economic aspects.

World War, 1914-1918--Peace.

World War, 1914-1918--United States.

World War, 1914-1918.

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### **BIOGRAPHICAL FILE 1917-1922**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Business card, clipping, directory, poem, and government agency reunion and dinner programs, arranged by subject.

Box/Folder 1 : 1

#### **General 1917-1918**

Box/Folder 1 : 2

#### **Government alumni 1918-1922**

### **DIARY 1917-1919**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Arranged by physical form

Box/Folder 1 : 3

#### **Handwritten 1917 December 27 - 1918 April 27**

Box/Folder 1 : 4-6

#### **Typescript 1918 January 1 - 1919 June 9**

### **NOTES FOR WAR CONTROLS BOOK 1911-1927**

#### **Scope and Contents note**

Bibliographies, manuscripts, memoranda of conversations, notes, outlines, correspondence, and transcript of a lecture, arranged alphabetically by subject.

### **General**

Box/Folder 1 : 7

#### **Bibliographies 1926**

Box/Folder 1 : 8

#### **Correspondence 1925-1927**

Box/Folder 1 : 9

#### **Notes 1926**

Box/Folder 1 : 10

#### **Scope and outline 1926-1927**

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Box/Folder 1 : 11	<b>Army supply 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 12-13	<b>Civil War 1911-1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 14	<b>Coordination 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 15	<b>Food 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 16	<b>Fuel 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 17	<b>Labor 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 18	<b>Organization for the war 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 19	<b>Railroads 1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 20	<b>Shipping 1918-1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 21	<b>War Industries Board 1924-1926</b>
Box/Folder 1 : 22	<b>War Trade Board 1926</b>
	<b>WAR FILE 1917-1920</b>
	<b>Scope and Contents note</b>
	Correspondence, directories, memoranda, minutes of meetings, organization charts, reports, tables, arranged alphabetically by name of government office or private organization.
Box/Folder 1 : 23	<b>General 1917-1919</b>
Box/Folder 2 : 1-2	<b>Allied Maritime Transport Council. Report 1919 April</b>
	<b>American Commission to Negotiate Peace</b>
Box/Folder 2 : 3	<b>General 1918 November - 1919 March</b>
Box/Folder 2 : 4	<b>Correspondence, (John Foster Dulles, C. S. Duncan, Walter S. Tower) 1919 January 2 - 1919 May 8</b>
	<b>American Section. Allied Maritime Transport Council</b>
Box/Folder 2 : 5	<b>General 1918 May - 1919 January</b>
Box/Folder 2 : 6-9	<b>Correspondence, (J. S. Davis, James A. Field, Howard L. Gray, Jerome D. Greene, George Rublee, Walter S. Tower) 1918 March 9 - 1919 April 23</b>
Box/Folder 2 : 10	<b>Bureau of War Risk Insurance. Report 1920 May 3</b>
	<b>Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 1	<b>General 1918 October 24 - 1919 June 10</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 2	<b>Correspondence 1918 August 12 - 1919 September 8</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 3	<b>Directories and organization chart 1918-1919</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 4	<b>Financial statement 1919 July</b>
	<b>Minutes</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 5	<b>Staff conference 1918 September 5 - 1919 June 6</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 6	<b>Statistical group conference 1919 January 21 - 1919 June 3</b>
	<b>Reports</b>
Mixed Materials shelf	<b>Conspectus of Special War Activities 1918 August 18</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 7	<b>Estimate of Tonnage Available for the Transport of Trans-Atlantic Army Cargo 1918</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 8	<b>Fuel Administration 1918 December 30</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 9	<b>Final Report 1919 July</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 10	<b>Organization and Functions of the Central Bureau of Planning and Statistics 1918 December 24</b>
Mixed Materials shelf	<b>Tables of Production and Consumption of the Chief Commercial Mineral Products... 1918 December 15</b>
	<b>Weekly</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 11	<b>Activities 1918 September 14 - 1919 June 7</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 12-14	<b>For the President 1919 April 28 - 1919 June 16</b>
Box/Folder 3 : 15	<b>Chamber of Commerce. General records 1917 October 15 - 1918 October 31</b>
	<b>Commercial Economy Board</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 1-3	<b>General 1917 April 18 - 1917 December 4</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 4-5	<b>Correspondence, (Melvin T. Copeland, A. W. Shaw, others) 1917 April 11 - 1917 December 19</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 6	<b>Committee on Economic Research (Harvard University). Report 1918 June 6</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 7	<b>Conservation Division. Final report 1918</b>

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	<b>Division of Planning and Statistics (USSB)</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 8-10	<b>General 1918 September 7 - 1919 August 14</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 11	<b>Correspondence 1918 April 12 - 1920 January 10</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 12	<b>Directory 1918</b>
Mixed materials case	<b>Organization chart 1918</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 13	<b>Historical sketch to 1918 May 1</b>
	<b>List of necessary imports</b>
	<b>For 1918</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 14	<b>For 1919</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 15	<b>For 1919</b>
Box/Folder 4 : 16	<b>Memoranda to Chairman and Commissioners 1919 April 12 - 1919 May 29</b>
	<b>Reports</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 1	<b>American merchant shipping 1919 July 14 - 1919 August 7</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 2	<b>Numbered trade and vessel reports 1919</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 3-5	<b>Special report to Edwin Francis Gay on P. A. S. Franklin 1918</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 6	<b>Status of restrictions of minerals... 1918 October</b>
	<b>Division of Planning and Statistics (WIB)</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 7	<b>General 1918 June 30 - 1918 December 7</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 8-9	<b>Price charts circa 1918 October</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 10	<b>Shipping Control Committee. General records 1918 March 5 - 1918 December 13</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 11	<b>War Industries Board. General records 1918 September 1 - 1920 April 1</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 12	<b>War Prohibition Committee. Announcement 1917 May 10</b>
	<b>War Trade Board</b>
Box/Folder 5 : 13	<b>General 1919 January 1 - 1919 July 17</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 1-2	<b>Correspondence 1919 January 25 - 1919 August 19</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 3	<b>Directories 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 4	<b>List of restricted imports 1918 March 23 - 1919 January 6</b>
	<b>PRINTED MATTER 1913-1943</b>
	<b>Scope and Contents note</b>
	Booklets, bulletins, clippings, reprints, publications, transcripts, arranged alphabetically by name of company, government agency, private organization, or periodical.
Box/Folder 6 : 5	<b>General 1917-1919</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 6	<b>Academy of Political Science 1926</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 7	<b>American Academy of Political and Social Science 1916-1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 8	<b>American Society of Mechanical Engineers 1924</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 9	<b>Bankers Trust Company 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 10	<b>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 11	<b>Chamber of Commerce 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 12	<b>Conference Committee on National Preparedness 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 13	<b>Conference on Social Agencies and Reconstruction 1919</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 14	<b>Co-Operative League of America 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 15	<b>Great Britain. Committee on Commercial and Industrial Policy 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 16	<b>Massachusetts. Commission on the Cost of Living 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 17	<b>The Nation 1919</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 18	<b>National Foreign Trade Council 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 19	<b>New Republic 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 20	<b>Quarterly Journal of Economics 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 21	<b>United States. Congress. House of Representatives 1919</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 22	<b>United States. Congress. House of Representatives. Select Committee on U.S. Shipping Board Operations 1920</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 23	<b>United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Finance 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 24	<b>United States. National Archives 1943</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 25	<b>United States. President's Mediation Commission 1918</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 26	<b>United States. War Department 1923</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 27	<b>United States. War Department. Army War College 1924-1925</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 28	<b>United States. War Department. Liquidation Commission 1920</b>

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Box/Folder 6 : 29	<b>United States. War Department. Office of the Chief of Ordnance 1923</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 30	<b>United States. War Department. War Plans Division 1918-1919</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 31	<b>Winton Company 1917</b>
Box/Folder 6 : 32	<b>World Peace Foundation 1913</b>
	<b>DECLASSIFIED GOVERNMENT RECORDS 1917-1924</b>

Reading room workstation	<b>2017 Release of records 1917-1924</b>
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