Finding Aid for the William Gibbs McAdoo Papers, 1902-1938

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Finding Aid for the William Gibbs McAdoo Papers, 1902-1938

Collection number: 350

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Josh Fiala, August 2002

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Descriptive Summary
Title: William Gibbs McAdoo Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1902-1938
Collection number: 350
Creator: McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1863-1941
Extent: 15 boxes (7.5 linear ft.) 9 oversize boxes
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library, Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: William Gibbs McAdoo (1863-1941) was a lawyer with a practice in Chattanooga, Tennessee before relocating to New York City in 1892. He developed system of rapid transit tunnels under the Hudson River and was president (1902-13) of the company which built them. In 1912, McAdoo served as vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee and was later appointed Secretary of the Treasury (1913). During World War I, he served as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. He moved to Los Angeles, California (1922) and served as a Democrat in the U.S. Senate (1933-38). The collection consists of correspondence, financial records, and clippings related to the personal life and political career of William Gibbs McAdoo.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Zeitlin & Ver Brugge Booksellers, gift and purchase, 1951.

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Biography
McAdoo was born near Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia, on October 31, 1863; attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville; admitted to Tennessee bar in 1885 and began law practice in Chattanooga, Tennessee; moved to New York City, 1892; developed system of rapid transit tunnels under the Hudson River and was president (1902-13) of the company which built them; vice chairman, Democratic National Committee, 1912; appointed Secretary of the Treasury by Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1918; chairman of the Federal Reserve Board during World War I; moved to Los Angeles, California, 1922; served as Democrat, U.S. Senate, 1933-38; died while visiting Washington, D.C., on February 1, 1941.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of correspondence, financial records, and clippings related to the personal life and political career of William Gibbs McAdoo. Includes materials related to the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 as well as bound volumes of clippings related to the Hudson and Manhattan Railway Company.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
2. McAdoo’s personal financial ledgers, 1902-36 (Box 4).
3. Correspondence and related material concerning McAdoo’s activities with the Boy Scouts of America, 1919-20 (Boxes 5-6).
4. Ledgers, account books, and records concerning McAdoo’s business affairs, 1919-31 (Boxes 7-8).
6. Correspondence and papers re: professional career, 1910-22, and Senatorial affairs, 1936-38 (Box 11).
7. U.S. Railway Administration and Democratic National Committee chairmanship (Box 12).
8. Private correspondence, legal documents, and miscellany, ca. 1911-22 (Box 14).
9. Personal receipt file, 1919-20 (Box 15).
10. Bound copies of mortgages, legal documents, etc. (Boxes 16-17).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog. McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1863-1941--Archives.
United States--Federal Reserve Act.
Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company.
Legislators--United States--Archival resources.
Box 1-3

**Miscellaneous books on the Federal Reserve Act and the Federal Reserve System from William G. McAdoo's private library. Some copies are autographed by the donor and container McAdoo's holograph annotations.**

**Federal Reserve System.**

**Scope and Content Note**
Includes the following:
U.S. Federal Bank of St. Louis. Rediscounting with ... St. Louis [c. 1916].
U.S. 63rd Congress, 1st Session. House. H.R. 7837... An act to provide for Federal reserve banks... September 18, 1913. 51 pp. with Committee print 78 leaves.*.
...Senate Reports.
...Senate Hearings.
...Senate Hearings with index.
Jake Zeitlin, compiled. The Federal Reserve System: a collection of material from the library of Secretary of the Treasury William Gibbs McAdoo. 3 leaves, typescript [describes items listed above container in boxes 1-3].

* These two items are located in Box 3 and are copiously corrected and amended with interlineations, marginalia and notes on interleaved note paper, all in the handwriting of McAdoo. They are bound together and marked: Draft of Federal reserve bill H.R. 7837 with suggested amendments by Secretary McAdoo.

Box 4

**Ledgers containing records of McAdoo's personal financial transactions, 1902-1936. 4 vol.**

**Scope and Content Note**
Interleaved in some of the volumes are cancelled checks, sight drafts, brokers' statements, profit and loss statements, and trial balances.

Boxes 5-6

**Correspondence and related material concerning McAdoo's activities in behalf of the Boy Scouts of America, 1919-1920.**
Boxes 7-8

**Ledgers, account books and records concerning McAdoo’s business affairs, 1919-1931.**

Scope and Content Note
Includes the following:
- Income account, 1919-1920.
- Journal, 1921.
- Stockbook and ledger, 1927.
- Seaboard Realty Company, Los Angeles. Certificate of Incorporation, bylaws, and minutes, January 1924.
- Seaboard Development Company, Los Angeles. Certificate of Incorporation, bylaws and minutes, August 30-October 22, 1931.
- Culver City Airport, Incorporated, Los Angeles. Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, and minutes, December 15, 1928-August 9, 1929.

Boxes 9-10

**Personal files covering financial affairs, 1920-1926.**

Scope and Content Note
Includes the following:
- Receipt files.
- Automobile insurance file.
- South Down Millbank property and Farmers Cooperative files.
- Promotional Report addressed to McAdoo from E.T. Meredith, Des Moines, Iowa, September 26, 1921, concerning the development of certain coal properties in Utah and Arizona with cover letter, individual reports of other development companies and 3 fold. maps. 42 leaves. Typescript in binder.
- Statements of Riggs National Bank of Washington, D.C. to accompany reply to Treasury Department.
- Interrogatories regarding disposition of National Bank notes received from Treasury Department and regarding brokerage commissions and collateral pledged on real estate loans.

Boxes 11

**Correspondence and papers pertaining to McAdoo’s professional career, 1910-1922, and to his Senatorial affairs, 1936-1938.**

Scope and Content Note
Includes the following:
- Hudson & Manhattan Railway Company.
- Speeches by and about works about McAdoo, 1911.
- Correspondence regarding the position of Secretary of Agriculture, 1912-1913.
- File on Secretaryship of the Treasury and party politics, 1913-1916.
- Cavalcanti.
Box 12
[Correspondence, operating statistics etc.].

Scope and Content Note
Includes the following:
U.S. Railway Administration: correspondence, addresses, operating statistics for 1912, 1917-1922.
Democratic National Committee Chairmanship: correspondence, campaign literature, etc.

Box 13
Miscellaneous memorabilia, McAdoo's check stubs and family letters, 1867-1901.

Box 14
Private correspondence, legal documents and miscellany, ca. 1911-1922.

Scope and Content Note
Includes the following:
General correspondence, 1911-1918.
Documents relating to McAdoo's private law practice, McAdoo, Cotton & Franklin, including articles of co-partnership, canceled checks, and financial statements, 1912-1920.
Correspondence and documents relating to personal legal matters, 1919-1922.

Box 15
Personal receipt file, 1919-1920.

Boxes 16-17
Bound copies of mortgages, legal documents, etc. (from Los Angeles County Law Library, December 1986) Unclear whether or not they pertain to McAdoo (no compromise).

Boxes 18-21, 25
Hudson & Manhattan Railway Company and Century Syndicate Company Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, 1902-1909.

Physical Description: 6 volumes.

Boxes 22-24
U.S. Liberty Loan posters.

Scope and Content Note
Includes the following:
1st-2nd Loans.
3rd Loan.
4th Loan.