

Loy W. Henderson

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by Michael Spangler



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

1992

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Manuscript Division, 2001**

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Latest revision: 2004-10-14

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Loy W. Henderson

Span Dates: 1918-1984

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1938-1957)

ID No.: MSS53314

Creator: Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986

Extent: 8,250 items; 29 containers plus 1 oversize; 12 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Diplomat; later professor of international relations, American University, Washington, D.C. Correspondence, memoir, speeches and writings, academic and subject files, engagement books, scrapbook, photographs, and miscellany pertaining primarily to Henderson's diplomatic career.

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.

Names:

Henderson, Loy W. (Loy Wesley), 1892-1986
Bohlen, Charles E. (Charles Eustis), 1904-
Bullitt, William C. (William Christian), 1891-1967
Davies, Joseph Edward
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955
Kellogg, Frank B. (Frank Billings), 1856-1937
Messersmith, George S. (George Strausser), 1883-1960
Steinhardt, Laurence A. (Laurence Adolph), 1892-1950
Stimson, Henry Lewis, 1867-1950
Welles, Sumner, 1892-
Wiley, John C. (John Cooper), 1893-1967
American Association of the Red Cross
Germany. Treaties, etc. Soviet Union, 1939 Aug. 23
United States. Dept. of State

Subjects:

Russo-Finnish War, 1939-1940
Rogers Act (1924)
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Soviet Union
Diplomatic and consular service, American--Baltic States
United States--Foreign relations--Soviet Union
Soviet Union--Foreign relations--United States
Baltic States--History
Israel--History--1948-1949
Palestine--History--Partition, 1947
United States--Foreign relations--India
India--Foreign relations--United States
United States--Foreign relations--Iran
Iran--Foreign relations--United States
United States--Foreign relations--Iraq
Iraq--Foreign relations--United States

Occupation:

Diplomats

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Loy W. Henderson, career diplomat and professor, were given to the Library of Congress by Henderson in 1981. Additional materials were received from his estate in 1987.

Processing History:

The papers of Loy W. Henderson were arranged and described in 1983. Additional material received in 1987 was incorporated into the collection in 1992.

Transfers:

Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Most photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Most maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the Loy W. Henderson Papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Loy W. Henderson in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Loy W. Henderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1892, June 28	Born, Rogers, Ark.
1915	A.B. degree, Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.
1917-1918	Student, University of Denver Law School, Denver, Colo.
1919	Member of Inter-Allied Commission to Germany for repatriation of prisoners of war
1919-1921	Member of American Red Cross Commission to Europe
1922	Entered foreign service as vice consul in Dublin, Ireland
1925	Division of East European Affairs, Department of State
1927	Third secretary of legation, Baltic States
1930	Division of East European Affairs Married Elise Marie Heinrichson
1934	Second secretary of embassy, Moscow, U.S.S.R.
1942	Inspector, diplomatic missions and consular office, Department of State
1943	Ambassador to Iraq

1945	Director, Near Eastern and African Affairs, Department of State
1948	Ambassador to India and Nepal
1951	Ambassador to Iran
1955	Deputy under secretary of state for administration
1956	Delegate to Baghdad Pact, Iran
1957	Chief of mission to arrange new establishments in Africa, Department of State
1960	Retired
1961-1968	Professor, international relations, American University, Washington, D.C.
1986	Memoirs published, <i>A Question of Trust</i> , edited by George W. Baer (Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press. 579 pp.)
1986, March 24	Died, Bethesda, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Loy Wesley Henderson (1892-1986) trace his brief time with the American Red Cross, his long career in the foreign service, and a brief academic career. Relatively little of his personal life is documented outside of the drafts of his memoirs. Although the papers span the years 1918-1984, they are concentrated in the period of the late 1930s to the late 1950s.

Included in the collection are [correspondence](#), [subject files](#), [speeches and writings](#), [academic papers](#), engagement books, and a manuscript of Henderson's extensive memoir detailing his early life, education, and career up to 1942. His professional life in the foreign service was divided between assignments in Washington, D.C., and overseas posts. The memoir comments on the background and implementation of the Rogers Act (1924), which combined the diplomatic and consular services. Problems in the Baltic states in the late 1920s and early 1930s resulting from Soviet threats to their independence are also discussed. Treated as well are American-Soviet negotiations leading up to the recognition of the Soviet Union in 1933, plus the many difficulties encountered in establishing and operating the American embassy in Moscow.

A highlight of Henderson's career was his service in Moscow (1934-1938) under William C. Bullitt, the first American ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Bullitt's successor, Joseph E. Davies. Throughout the memoirs Henderson notes his impressions of major figures in American diplomacy during the period between the wars, including William C. Bullitt, Joseph E. Davies, Cordell Hull, Frank Kellogg, Laurence Steinhardt, Henry L. Stimson, and Sumner Welles. Others whose careers were just beginning are also mentioned, such as Charles Bohlen, George Kennan, George Messersmith, and John C. Wiley.

The [Correspondence](#) series includes significant correspondence with George Messersmith, Laurence Steinhardt, and John C. Wiley. For the years 1939-1941, letters from Ambassador Laurence Steinhardt in Moscow and John C. Wiley, Minister to the Baltic states, are mostly personal rather than official correspondence to Henderson, at that time assistant chief of the European Division. Both Steinhardt and Wiley record in some detail the internal problems of their posts, their difficulties in dealing with the Soviets, and observations on the Russo-Finnish War and the Ribentrop-Molotov Pact. They also speculate about future actions of the Soviet Union, Germany, and Japan.

Other correspondence is from scholars writing Henderson about events in his career. He was fastidious in answering these queries, and the responses in the [Subject Files](#) or the [Correspondence](#) series supplement his memoirs.

The [Subject Files](#) cover the breadth of his career. Although the files are not extensive, those on the Soviet Union, Israel, Palestine, and Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs are the most substantive.

[Speeches and writings](#) document various periods of Henderson's career. Dispatches from the American legation in Riga, Latvia, in 1930, the originals of which are in the National Archives, analyze Josef Stalin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture. Also in the file is Henderson's brief summary of his foreign service assignments from 1922 to 1961, part of which treats his tenure as ambassador to Iran from 1951 to 1954.

The [Academic File](#) consists of correspondence, course outlines and notes, reports, and student papers related to his teaching at American University. Biographical information, engagement books, oral history transcripts, and awards comprise the [Miscellany series](#).

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Correspondence, 1938-1974, n.d.](#)
- [Subject File, 1918-1981, n.d.](#)
- [Academic File, 1961-1968, n.d.](#)
- [Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1950-1973, n.d.](#)
- [Oversize, 1922-1982, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-5

Correspondence, 1938-1974, n.d.

Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments.

Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic.

BOX 5-16

Subject File, 1918-1981, n.d.

Correspondence, memoranda, and reports.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 16-18

Academic File, 1961-1968, n.d.

Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX 18-22

Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984, n.d.

Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 23-29

Miscellany, 1950-1973, n.d.

Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook.

Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1922-1982, n.d.

Certificates.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-5	Correspondence, 1938-1974, n.d. Letters received and copies of letters sent, including telegrams, memoranda, and miscellaneous attachments. Organized in two categories: special correspondence, including high-level State Department officials, secretaries of state, and presidents arranged alphabetically by name or office; and general correspondence, including routine letters from friends and acquaintances, arranged alphabetically by name or topic.
BOX 1	Special Benton, William, 1969-1973 Haig, Alexander M., Jr., 1974 Harper, Samuel, 1939-1943 Messersmith, George S., 1938 Steinhardt, Laurence, 1939-1941 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Wiley, John C., 1938-1961 Presidents of United States, 1938-1961 Secretaries of state, 1957-1969 General A-L (9 folders)
BOX 3	M-Z (9 folders) Congratulations 1954
BOX 4	1954-1958 (3 folders) Retirement, 1961 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Death of former colleagues and friends
BOX 5-16	Subject File, 1918-1981, n.d. Correspondence, memoranda, and reports. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 5	American Red Cross Correspondence, 1919-1924 Instructions, 1918-1921 Miscellany, 1919-1975 Travel documents, 1918-1921 Work in Europe (2 folders)

Subject File, 1918-1981, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Africa trip, 1960 (2 folders)
BOX 6	(1 folder)
	Baghdad Pact, 1956-1957
	Baltic States, 1928-1976 (2 folders)
	Bullitt, William C., 1936-1938
	Communism
BOX 7	Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.
	Delta Tau Delta
	Foreign service
	Appointments
	Blacks in foreign service, 1975
	Cemetery
	Changes
	Conferences
	Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa., 1963
	San Salvador, 1959
	Congressional comments
	Correspondence, 1962-1963
	Dawson, H. G., Jr. <i>See same Container, Blacks in foreign service</i>
	Draft report, 1961
	Entry into, 1921-1922
BOX 8	Printed material
	Greece (2 folders)
	India
	Appointment to position, 1948
	Exchanges with Indian officers, 1949-1950
	Ismail, Mirza, 1950-1951
	Miscellany (2 folders)
BOX 9	Nehru, Jawaharlal, 1965-1967
	Social and ceremonial, 1949-1950 (2 folders)
	Iran
	Background
	Correspondence, 1954-1978
	Colleagues
	Congratulations and condolence
	Personal
	Henderson, Elise (Mrs. Loy)
	Miscellany (1 folder)
BOX 10	(2 folders)
	Trips, 1953-1954
	Zahedi, Ardeshir, 1962-1974

Subject File, 1918-1981, n.d.

Container

Contents

	Iraq
	Correspondence, 1943-1968
	Miscellany
	Social and ceremonial
BOX 11	Israel-Palestine
	Adler, Frank J., 1975-1976
	Correspondence, 1947-1977
	Lilienthal, Alfred, 1969-1977
	Papers/lectures
	Podet, Allen, 1976-1981
	Printed material
BOX 12	Wilson, Evan, 1976
	Margolin, Arnold D., 1943-1945
	Middle East oil, 1943
	Near Eastern, African, and South Asian affairs, 1945-1948
	Administrative
	Substantive
	General
	Miscellaneous
BOX 13	Nepal, King Mahendra's visit to Washington, 1960
	Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., 1951-1961
	Pakistan, 1951
	Shigemitsu, Mamoru (Japan), 1937-1950
	Turkey, 1946
	USSR
	American-Russian Institute, 1940-1943
	Arrests, trials, cases, 1938-1939
	Baltic States, problems, 1939-1940
	Collective farms, report, 1930
	Constitution
	Control of distribution of labor
BOX 14	Diplomatic lists
	(2 folders)
	Eastern Europe, 1939-1943
	Embassy and consular office staff
	Establishment of relations, 1933
	German-Soviet relations, 1939
	Great Purge, 1935-1939
BOX 15	Historical treatment of ambassadors in Russia
	Oumansky, Constantine A., 1939
	Post-retirement papers, 1961-1977
	Telegrams and dispatches list, 1934-1938
	Trips
	Krasnoyarsk and Igarka, 1938
	Siberia, 1938
BOX 16	United States citizens, problems, 1938-1941

Subject File, 1918-1981, n.d.

Container

Contents

United States personnel, 1939-1943

United States-USSR relations, report on first three years after diplomatic recognition, 1936

United States-USSR trade, 1939

Zinoviev-Kamenev trial, 1936

Wagner College, St. George, Staten Island, N.Y.

Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, Washington, D.C., 1974-1978

BOX 16-18

Academic File, 1961-1968, n.d.

Correspondence, administrative papers, and student papers accumulated by Henderson while director of the Center for the Study of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy at American University.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX 16

Correspondence, 1961-1968

Problems in diplomacy

BOX 17

Program reports, 1963-1964

(2 folders)

Scholarship applications, 1962-1963

Seminars, 1963-1965

(2 folders)

BOX 18

(1 folder)

Student papers

Zambian students, 1963-1964

BOX 18-22

Speeches and Writings, 1930-1984, n.d.

Draft of unpublished memoirs, copies of drafts of dispatches, and manuscripts of articles and speeches.

Arranged by type of material.

BOX 18

Articles

(2 folders)

BOX 19

Writings

Memoirs

(5 folders)

BOX 20

(4 folders)

Summary of foreign service career, 1984

BOX 21

Dispatches from Latvia, 1930

(6 folders)

BOX 22

Speeches, 1945-1967, n.d.

(4 folders)

BOX 23-29

Miscellany, 1950-1973, n.d.

Biographical material, awards and honors, engagement books, oral history transcripts, clippings, photographs and a scrapbook.

Arranged by type of material and thereunder chronologically or alphabetically.

BOX 23

Biographical data

Comments about Henderson

Awards

Certificates *[See also Oversize](#)*

Miscellany, 1950-1973, n.d.

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	Honorary degrees
	Honors
	Engagement books
	1950, 1952
	(2 folders)
BOX 24	1953-1956
	(4 folders)
BOX 25	1956-1958
	(4 folders)
BOX 26	1958-1961
	(5 folders)
BOX 27	1967-1968
	Oral history interviews with Henderson (transcripts)
	By Columbia University, New York, N.Y., 1970
	By Harry S. Truman Library, Independence, Mo., 1973
	(2 folders)
BOX 28	Printed material
	Clippings
	Pamphlets
	Poland, Katyn Forest Massacre
	Reports
BOX 29	Photographs
	(6 folders)
	Scrapbook of visit to India, 1950
	(2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1922-1982, n.d.
	Certificates.
BOX OV 1	Certificates, 1922-1982, n.d. (Container 23)