

# **Waddy B. Wood**

## **A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress**

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Karen Spicher**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2007**

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress  
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms007106>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Papers of Waddy B. Wood

**Span Dates:** 1885-1941

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1913-1935)

**ID No.:** MSS82992

**Creator:** Wood, Waddy B. (Waddy Butler), 1869-1944

**Extent:** 2,400 items; 6 containers; 2.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Architect of Washington, D.C. Correspondence, writings, speeches, contracts, and other papers relating chiefly to Waddy B. Wood's career as an architect and designer in Washington, D.C. Also documented in the collection is Wood's involvement with the American Institute of Architects and the Democratic Party.

## 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.

### Personal Names

Delano, Frederic Adrian, 1863-1953.

Gilbert, Cass, 1859-1934.

Goodhue, Bertram Grosvenor, 1869-1924.

Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952.

Johnston, Frances Benjamin, 1864-1952.

Mellon, Andrew W. (Andrew William), 1855-1937.

Pope, John Russell, 1874-1937.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Wood, Waddy B. (Waddy Butler), 1869-1944.

### Organizations

American Institute of Architects.

Carrère & Hastings.

Democratic Party (U.S.)

Department of the Interior Building (Washington, D.C.)

McKim, Mead & White.

### Subjects

Architecture--Washington (D.C.)

### Occupations

Architects.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of Waddy B. Wood, architect, were given to the Library of Congress by the Smithsonian Institution in 1980. They were transferred to the Manuscript Division in 1994 from the Prints and Photographs Division which retained photographs and architectural drawings accompanying the manuscript items.

### Processing History:

The papers of Waddy B. Wood were arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

**Copyright Status:**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Waddy B. Wood is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Preferred Citation:**

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

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Waddy Butler Wood (1869-1944) span the years 1885-1941, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period between 1913 and 1935. The collection focuses on Wood's career as a leading architect and designer in Washington, D.C., and includes correspondence, professional papers, and miscellany.

Among the general correspondence are letters to and from major American architects such as Cass Gilbert, Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, John Russell Pope, and the firms of Carrère and Hastings and McKim, Mead & White, as well as correspondence with professional organizations and trade journals. Wood was active in the American Institute of Architects and served as president of its Washington chapter. His affiliation with the Democratic Party is reflected in correspondence with numerous politicians and government officials, including Andrew W. Mellon, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, and advisors to Woodrow Wilson. Wood designed and later remodeled President Wilson's house in northwest Washington. Of particular interest are the files on Harold L. Ickes, secretary of the interior, and Frederic A. Delano, architect and chairman of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission during the Roosevelt administration. Delano, President Roosevelt's maternal uncle, commissioned Wood in the 1920s to design his home in northwest Washington.

Although Wood designed and remodeled numerous private residences, his reputation rested primarily on his larger commissions, such as banks, commercial offices, and government buildings. The professional file in the papers documents his activity as adviser, competitor, and juror in architectural competitions and provides information regarding several of his projects. Of particular interest are the files on the Interior Department building, Wood's largest major work. An inaugurations file chronicles Wood's role as designer of the "courts of honor" for the inaugurations of Woodrow Wilson in 1913 and Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 and 1937.

Throughout Wood's lifetime, models, drawings, and photographs of his work could be seen frequently in public displays and trade publications. These depictions are chronicled in the exhibits file and in correspondence with architectural journals. Also of interest is Wood's correspondence with well-known photographer Frances Benjamin Johnston.

Miscellany includes biographical material and drafts of articles, speeches, and other brief writings and notes by Wood.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

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