

Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman

A Register of Her Papers in the Library of Congress

**Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Revised and expanded by Karen Linn Femia**



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Washington, D.C.

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Latest revision: 2004-07-26

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman

Span Dates: 1857-1982

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1910-1960)

ID No.: MSS24976

Creator: Harriman, Florence Jaffray Hurst, b. 1870

Extent: 10,000 items; 32 containers; 13 linear feet; 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Diplomat, political activist, and author. Correspondence, writings, news clippings, photographs, printed matter, and miscellaneous papers relating primarily to Harriman's activities as U.S. minister to Norway and her political activities on behalf of the Democratic party, world peace organizations, and District of Columbia voting rights.

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:

Harriman, Florence Jaffray Hurst, b. 1870

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence

Berlin, Irving, 1888- --Correspondence

Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955--Correspondence

Ellington, Duke, 1899-1974--Correspondence

Hayes, Helen, 1900- --Correspondence

Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence

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

Kefauver, Estes, 1903-1963--Correspondence

MacLeish, Archibald, 1892- --Correspondence

Marshall, George C. (George Catlett), 1880-1959--Correspondence

McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1863-1941--Correspondence

Pepper, Claude, 1900- --Correspondence

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence

Raemaekers, Louis, 1869-1956

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence

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

Truman, Harry S., 1884-1972--Correspondence

Villard, Oswald Garrison, 1872-1949--Correspondence

Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944--Correspondence

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961--Correspondence

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence

United States. Commission on Industrial Relations

United States. National Defense Advisory Commission. Committee on Women in Industry

American Red Cross. Women's Motor Corps

League of Nations

Woman's National Democratic Club (U.S.)

Subjects:

Diplomatic and consular service, American--Norway

Home rule--Washington (D.C.)

Industrial relations--United States

Peace--Societies, etc.

Presidents--United States--Election--1912

Social problems
Women--Societies and clubs
Women in the labor movement
World War, 1914-1918--Manpower
World War, 1914-1918--War work--France
World War, 1914-1918--Women
Norway--Foreign relations--United States
United States--Foreign relations--Norway

Occupations:

Authors
Diplomats
Labor leaders

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman, diplomat, political activist, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by Harriman in 1957. Additions to the papers were made by Harriman between 1958 and 1968 and by Phyllis Darling in 1998.

Processing History:

The papers of Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman were arranged and described in 1957. Additions I and II were processed and the register revised in 2002.

Transfers:

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as a part of these papers.

Copyright Status:

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Microfilm:

A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1870, July 21	Born, New York, N.Y.
1880-1888	Educated in Mrs. Lockwood's private classes, New York, N.Y.
1889	Married J. Borden Harriman (died, 1914)
1903-1916	President, Colony Club, New York, N.Y.

1906-1918	Member, Board of Managers of New York State Reformatory for Women at Bedford, New York, N.Y.
1912	Active in the presidential campaign for Woodrow Wilson
1913-1916	Member, U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations
1917-1918	Organized the American Red Cross Women's Motor Corps of the District of Columbia and directed the Women's Motor Corps in France.
1922	Founder and first president, Woman's National Democratic Club, Washington, D.C.
1923	Published <i>From Pinafores to Politics</i> . New York: Henry Holt and Co.
1937-1941	Minister to Norway
1940	With the German invasion of Norway; fled to Sweden and arranged for the safety of other Americans and the Norwegian royal family.
1941	Published <i>Mission to the North</i> . Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott
1967, Aug. 31	Died, Washington, D. C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Florence Jaffray Hurst Harriman (1870-1967) span the years 1857-1982 with the bulk of the material dating from 1910 to 1960. The papers are organized in the following series: [Personal Correspondence](#), [Oslo Correspondence](#), [Subject Files](#) (in two chronological sections), [Speech and Article File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Additions](#).

The [Personal Correspondence](#) primarily contains family correspondence. The [Oslo Correspondence](#) series, 1937-1940, pertains to Harriman's service as the United States minister to Norway, a post she had to abandon following the Nazi invasion of Norway in 1940.

The rest of the papers contain a wide variety of material reflecting Harriman's broad interests and activities throughout her long and vigorous life. She was a member of the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations, 1913-1916, and chairman of the U.S. National Defense Advisory Commission's Committee on Women in Industry, 1917-1919. She worked on behalf of world peace organizations and for the League of Nations. She helped organize and then served as director of the American Red Cross Women's Motor Corps in France during World War I. She cofounded the Colony Club in New York City and the Woman's National Democratic Club in Washington, D.C. Harriman became one of Washington's great hostesses, regularly having Sunday evening dinner parties for the politically well-connected at her home. Late in life, Harriman worked on behalf of home rule for the District of Columbia. Material is lacking on her service, 1906-1918, as a member of the board of managers of the Bedford Reformatory for Women in New York.

Notable correspondents include Bernard M. Baruch, Irving Berlin, Albert Einstein, Duke Ellington, Helen Hayes, Cordell Hull, Harold L. Ickes, Estes Kefauver, Archibald Macleish, George C. Marshall, Claude Pepper, John J. Pershing, Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Oswald Garrison Villard, and Wendell L. Wilkie.

[Addition I](#) contains correspondence and an autograph album. The correspondence is primarily professional and pertains to Harriman's political activities and involvement in social reform movements as well as her service as minister to Norway. The autograph album contains notes signed by many notable people, including William Gibbs McAdoo, John J. Pershing, and Woodrow Wilson. Also in the album is a pencil drawing with watercolor by the Dutch cartoonist Louis Raemaekers.

[Addition II](#) includes a scrapbook, correspondence, speeches and writings, transcripts of radio broadcasts, news clippings, and photographs. The scrapbook, which documents Harriman's work in Woodrow Wilson's 1912 presidential campaign, is

available on microfilm only. Correspondence from William Gibbs McAdoo and John J. Pershing document the close personal relationship Harriman had with both of these men. Other notable correspondents in Addition II include Franklin D. Roosevelt, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, and Woodrow Wilson.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in six series:

- [Personal Correspondence, 1937-1949](#)
- [Oslo Correspondence, 1937-1940](#)
- [Subject File, 1912-1950](#)
- [Speech and Article File, 1912-1950, n.d.](#)
- [Miscellany, 1926-1950, n.d.](#)
- [Additions, 1857-1982, n.d.](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-2	<u>Personal Correspondence, 1937-1949</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged as Harriman family, Norway, and miscellaneous correspondence.
BOX 3-9	<u>Oslo Correspondence, 1937-1940</u> Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 10-22	<u>Subject File, 1912-1950</u> Correspondence, reports, memoranda, and printed matter. Organized in two chronological groupings, 1912-1937 and 1940-1950, and arranged therein alphabetically by subject.
BOX 23-25	<u>Speech and Article File, 1912-1950, n.d.</u> Handwritten, typewritten, and near-print copies of speeches and articles. Arranged alphabetically by subject with miscellaneous writings at the end.
BOX 26-29	<u>Miscellany, 1926-1950, n.d.</u> Newspaper clippings, scrapbook, financial papers, photographs, awards and souvenirs, and printed matter. Organized alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 30-32	<u>Additions, 1857-1982, n.d.</u>
BOX 30	<u>Addition I, 1857-1956, n.d.</u> Autograph album and correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 31-32	<u>Addition II, 1906-1982, n.d.</u> Correspondence, biographical material, scrapbook, news clippings, photographs, writings, and miscellaneous material. Scrapbook available on microfilm only (shelf no. 21,870). Arranged alphabetically by name of person or type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
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BOX 2	Norway, 1937-1940 Miscellaneous, 1940-1947
BOX 3-9	Oslo Correspondence, 1937-1940 Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
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Oslo Correspondence, 1937-1940

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	Democratic party material, 1936-1937
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	Industrial Relations Commission, 1914-1917
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Subject File, 1912-1950

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- BOX 30** **Addition I, 1857-1956, n.d.**
Autograph album and correspondence.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
- BOX 30** Autograph album, 1857-1946
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- BOX 31-32** **Addition II, 1906-1982, n.d.**
Correspondence, biographical material, scrapbook, news clippings, photographs, writings, and miscellaneous material.
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