

Papers of  
Frederic A. Delano  
1812 - 1959

Accession Numbers: 51-32, 54-1, 65-6, 69-5

The "Algonac" Diaries were received at the Library in 1950 from Catherine Delano Grant and Laura Delano Houghteling, daughters of Frederic A. Delano. In August 1950 Catherine Delano Grant also gave the Library a volume of condolences received by the Delano family on the death of Laura F. Delano, Mr. Delano's sister, in 1884. The remainder was given to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library by Laura Delano Houghteling in July 1953 and October 1964. Literary property rights have not been donated to the United States Government.

Quantity: 12 linear feet (approximately 24,000 pages)

Restrictions: None

Related Material: Correspondence with Frederic A. Delano may be found in the papers of Eleanor Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt and in the Delano Family Papers. The Delano Family Papers and the Roosevelt Family Papers include material concerning other members of the Delano family.

Frederic Adrian Delano, Franklin D. Roosevelt's uncle, was born in Hong Kong, China on September 10, 1863. His father, Warren Delano II, was at that time a partner in the shipping firm of Russell and Company based in that city. A few years later the Delano family returned to "Algonac", the family home near Newburgh, New York and Delano spent much of his childhood there.

After graduating from Harvard University in 1885, Frederic A. Delano began a railroad career as an apprentice machinist with the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad. He eventually became General Manager of that company, serving in that position from 1901 through 1904. In 1905 he was named president of the Wabash Railroad; in January 1914 he assumed the presidency of the Monon Railroad. Resigning that position on August 10, 1914, he accepted appointment to a six-year term on the Federal Reserve Board. In 1918 he resigned as Vice-Chairman of the Board and entered the army as a Major in the U.S. Engineering Corps. He served as director of transportation at Paris, France, attaining the rank of Colonel. In 1921 the United States Government awarded him the Distinguished Service Medal for his wartime service.

The Supreme Court of the United States named Mr. Delano as Receiver in the Red River Boundary Case (Oklahoma v. Texas) in April 1920 and he served in that capacity until the court issued its final decree on June 1, 1925. The following December he was appointed President of the League of Nations Commission of Enquiry into Production of Opium in Persia. In 1926 the Commission visited Persia to survey the local economy with the aim of proposing a financial substitute for the production of opium.

Frederic A. Delano also had a deep interest in the field of city planning and was a member of the Chicago Plan Commission during his residence in that city prior to 1914. After moving to Washington in that year he became involved in many planning activities in the District of Columbia. President Coolidge appointed him President of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission in 1927. In 1933 Franklin D. Roosevelt named him Chairman of the National Resources Planning Commission, a position that he held for ten years. He also served as President of the American Planning and Civic Association for a number of years.

Mr. Delano gave much of his time to civic affairs throughout his life. He served as a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution and a trustee of the Carnegie Institution and also had interests in a number of other organizations. He was the author of many articles on subjects diverse as railroad transportation, monetary policy, and city planning. He died in Washington on March 28, 1953 at the age of 89.

The papers include correspondence, memoranda, reports, family diaries, ship's logs, maps, blueprints, memorabilia, printed and processed material, newspaper clippings, and scrapbooks. They are arranged in six series, as follows:

Containers

Series

1 - 9

I. SUBJECT FILE, 1904-1950

Correspondence, memoranda, reports, maps, blueprints, memorabilia, printed and processed material, arranged alphabetically by subject. Newspaper clippings and scrapbooks are filed at the end of the series. Material relates to various civic organizations that Frederic A. Delano was associated with and to issues of interest to him, such as city planning -- especially in Washington, D.C. and Newburgh, New York, railroads and transportation, monetary policy, and Delano family affairs.

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II. RED RIVER BOUNDARY CASE, 1920-1928

A small file of correspondence relating to the boundary dispute between Oklahoma and Texas, in which Frederic A. Delano served as receiver of the disputed territory. Two volumes of Supreme Court documents concerning the case, a typewritten "History of the Receivership" in three volumes, and two volumes of photographs, mainly of the oil lands in question. "The Red River Boundary Dispute" by W. Clayton Carpenter, 1925.

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III. LEAGUE OF NATIONS COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO PRODUCTION OF OPIUM IN PERSIA, 1925-1927

Correspondence of Frederic A. Delano as President of the Commission; also letters written to his wife from Geneva. Working papers of the Commission, including agenda, minutes, reports, memoranda, drafts, and printed materials. Diaries of their visit to Persia in 1926 by Delano and Archibald MacLeish, his personal private secretary. Scrapbooks and memorabilia. Arranged according to subject.

Container

Series

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IV. SPEECHES AND WRITINGS, 1887-1940's

Speeches, articles, and letters to newspapers written by Frederic A. Delano, arranged chronologically. Subjects covered include railroads, urban planning, and monetary policy.

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V. ESTATE PAPERS

Correspondence, newspaper clippings and articles, and financial papers relating to the death of Frederic A. Delano in 1953 and the settlement of his estate, kept by Laura Delano Houghteling, daughter of Frederic A. Delano and co-executrix of his will. Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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VI. FAMILY PAPERS, 1812-ca.1925

Correspondence of various Delano family members, including Frederic A. Delano's sister, Sara, and father, Warren Delano II, arranged alphabetically by correspondent and thereunder chronologically. Condolences on the death of his sister, Laura F. Delano, 1884. Journal kept by Catherine R. Delano, Frederic A. Delano's mother, on a voyage from New York to Hong Kong on the clipper Surprise, 1862. Also diaries kept at "Algonac" by Catherine and Warren Delano and other family members, 1829 to ca.1925. Newspaper clippings and scrapbooks compiled by various family members and logs of the Philippe de la Noye, a whaler owned by the Delano family, 1848-1855. Related material may be found in the Delano Family Papers and the Roosevelt Family Papers. The Library also has a log of the Surprise, 1862-1863.

I. SUBJECT FILE

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1	Alaska "Algonac" "Algonac": Appraisal, 1939 Algonquin Park, Newburgh, N.Y. American Federation of Arts American Planning and Civic Association Balm Tree, Balmville, New York Baltimore Harbor Bridge
2	Banking Reforms, Gold Standard, Economics Brookings Institution "Buffalo Hunt" (Bronze Statuary by H.K. Bush-Brown) Calendar Reform Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Carnegie Institution Chicago China Defense Supplies Choiseul Family Christmas Cards, Postcards and Invitations Clubs Coal Commission on Industrial Relations
3	Delano Family Matters (including clippings and genea- logical material) Diamond Ranche (Wyoming) Dimock, Mrs. Henry F. - The George Washington Memorial Building District of Columbia Fairhaven and New Bedford, Massachusetts Federal Reserve Board Franklin D. Roosevelt Library Freer Bequest (to Smithsonian Institution)
4	Handkerchief Map of Washington, D.C. Harvard University Harvard University Committee on Regional Planning Investors' Equity Company Jakobsen, Hans LaBelle Case (Fred A. LaBelle, Youngstown, Ohio) Library of Congress Lippman, Walter (F.A.D.'s reply to column of July 18, 1935)

I. SUBJECT FILE - continued

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5	Newburgh and Mid-Hudson River Valley Historical Matters Newburgh and Orange County Planning Matters Pacific Coast Trip, 1935 Politics - Post Offices Public Appointments Railroads (2 folders) Roosevelt, Franklin D.
6	Russell Sage Foundation Samuel Russell Company (Russell and Company) Smithsonian Institution (2 folders) Stable Money Association Stock Certificates Tennessee Valley Authority Trees in the District of Columbia and Elsewhere Tunnel Under Decatur St. Property Unemployment Relief Vinton Colliery Company
7	Warren Delano Portrait by Charles L. Elliott (1852) Washington Monument Washington Property (S Street) Washington's Headquarters (2049 M Street) World War I Papers Yucatan Visit, 1932
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## II. RED RIVER BOUNDARY CASE

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11	Oklahoma v. Texas, History of the Receivership, Vol. I
12	Oklahoma v. Texas, History of the Receivership, Vol. II
13	Oklahoma v. Texas, History of the Receivership, Vol. III
14	Oklahoma v. Texas, History of the Receivership, Vol. I (copy 2)
15	Oklahoma v. Texas, History of the Receivership, Vol. II (copy 2)
16	Oklahoma v. Texas, History of the Receivership, Vol. III (copy 2)
17	Red River Boundary Case - Photographs (album)
18	Red River Boundary Case - Photographs (album)

## III. LEAGUE OF NATIONS COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY INTO PRODUCTION OF OPIUM IN PERSIA

19	Correspondence (General) Correspondence, Frederic A. Delano to Matilda P. Delano, 1926 Agenda of Meetings Memoranda and Reports Report by Jewell B. Knight, Agricultural Expert
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28	<p>"Algonac Diary", January 1869-September 1870</p> <p>"Algonac Diary", October 1870-August 1872</p>
29	<p>"Algonac Diary", September 1872-September 1875</p> <p>"Algonac Diary", October 1875-January 1879</p>

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39	Log of the <u>Philippe de la Noye</u> , 1852-1855