

Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr. collection of International Red Cross conference materials

Ms. Coll. 1305

Finding aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige.

Last updated on May 26, 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Clattenburg, Albert E., 1906-1987
Title	Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr. collection of International Red Cross conference materials
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1305
Date [bulk]	1947-1949
Date [inclusive]	1930-1949
Extent	3 linear feet (3 boxes)
Language	English
Language Note	English and French
Abstract	<p>Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr. (1906-1987) was an official and a diplomat with the United States State Department who was involved in the revisions of the Geneva Convention from 1947 to 1949. This collection contains eighteen bound volumes of materials documenting Clattenburg's involvement in the International Red Cross Conferences relating to the Geneva Conventions. While most of the material is printed and was clearly disseminated to all members of committees and delegations, these are Clattenburg's working copies of minutes, reports, and amendments.</p>

Cite as:

Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr. collection of International Red Cross conference materials, 1930-1949 (bulk: 1947-1949), Ms. Coll. 1305, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

The Geneva Conventions of the International Red Cross conference comprise four treaties and additional protocols that establish the standards of international law for humanitarian treatment in war. These four conventions address rights and procedures for the treatment of wounded and sick in armed forces in the field; the wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces on sea; prisoners of war; and civilian persons in time of war.

In the aftermath of World War II, it was determined that the two treaties of 1929 needed to be updated and enhanced. Between April 14 and 26 in 1947, a conference of government experts was convened to study the conventions for the protection of war victims. As a result, the International Red Cross held a conference in Stockholm in 1948 in which the four conventions were developed. In April of 1949, a Diplomatic Conference for the establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of War Victims was held in Geneva and it appears that members of that conference worked on the details of the four conventions in committees. On August 12, 1949, the four conventions were approved in Geneva. From 1947 to 1949, each act and article of the conventions were compared to past acts and articles, revised, argued, and revised again. Delegates from across the globe met and discussed these conventions before finally agreeing upon the final language.

Albert E. Clattenburg, Jr. (September 6, 1906 – August 28, 1987) was an official and a diplomat with the United States State Department. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1928 and became an expert on prisoner of war questions and international law inside the State Department. During World War II, he was assistant chief of the Department of State's Special War Problems Division. He served as the head of the United States delegation to the Geneva meeting in 1947 and attended the 1948 Conference in Stockholm. He also participated in the 1949 International Red Cross Convention, probably serving on Committee III which focused on rights of civilians during times of war. During his time as a Foreign Service Officer, Clattenburg and his family (including wife, Thelma (1903-1982), and sons Albert (1932-2015) and Charles (1938-2008)) were stationed in Greece, Canada, France, and Batavia (present-day Jakarta).

Scope and Contents

This collection contains eighteen bound volumes of materials documenting the International Red Cross Conferences of 1947 to 1949, relating to the Geneva Conventions. While most of the material is printed and was clearly disseminated to all members of committees and delegations, these are Clattenburg's working copies of minutes, reports, and amendments. They contain his handwritten notes as well as a few odd bits of memorabilia (bound into the volumes). For the most part, both English and French copies of the material are contained within the volumes, with the exception of *Actes de la Conférence Diplomatique de Genève* (box 1, folder 1) and *La Croix-Rouge et Les Conventions de Genève* (box 1, folder 3) which are exclusively in French.

The collection is arranged in four series: I. Research on 1929 Geneva Conventions; II. Conference of Government Experts for the Study of the Conventions for the Protection of War Victims, held in Geneva from April 14 to 26, 1947; III. XVIIth International Red Cross Conference held in Stockholm in August 1948; and IV. Diplomatic Conference for the establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of War Victims held in Geneva on April 21, 1949 and the resulting committee work which took place between February and August 1949.

While the bulk of the material dates from 1947 to 1949, there is some earlier material probably used as research for the revisions suggested. In the first series, researchers will find published material from 1929 Geneva Conventions which includes the revisions to the acts of the 1906 Convention as well as lists of nations which participated in the 1864 and 1906 Conventions. There are copies of the two 1929 Conventions published by the government of the United States, and a 1943 analysis of the 1929 Conventions.

Series II. Conference of Government Experts for the Study of the Conventions for the Protection of War Victims documents Clattenburg's work as chief of the United States Delegation. It is possible that he served on the Prisoners of War Committee as part of his role as Chief of the Special Projects Division. Clattenburg's involvement in the revisions is apparent and there is evidence of close study of the 1929 Conventions--documents begin with suggested revisions to each act and each article and include Clattenburg's annotations. His correspondence (bound into volumes) with members of United States governmental agencies provides a glimpse into the number of groups interested in defining prisoner of war language and ensuring appropriate treatment. Of particular interest to researchers may be the working document entitled "Commission of Government Experts for the Study of Conventions for the Protection of War Victims," (box 1, folder 5) which includes side by side comparisons of each article with the 1929 version on the left side of the volume and the proposed revisions on the right side.

Series III. XVIIth International Red Cross Conference held in Stockholm in August 1948 contains several document from the conference bound into one volume. This volume includes the conference program and schedule, list of participants, menus, and an opera program. There are no working documents contained within this volume.

The final series relates to the Diplomatic Conference for the establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of War Victims held in Geneva on April 21, 1949, and the resulting committee work which took place between February and August 1949. Researchers will find revised and new draft conventions for the protection of wartime victims and remarks and proposals submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross for consideration by the governments who would participate in the April 21 conference. The following volumes document the work undertaken by committee members, in particular, the work of Committee III, which focused specifically on the Convention on the protection of civilians. It is probable that Clattenburg worked on this committee. This committee's work includes meeting minutes and drafts of articles. There are also memorandums from government delegations requesting further revisions or language changes. While the majority of the material in this series focuses on civilians, there are also reports of the Joint Committee (a committee dealing with language common to all committees) to the Plenary Assembly, the Plenary Assembly's meetings notes, and the drafts of the articles for the other three committees as well as the Legal Commission's report.

It appears that Clattenburg had his copies bound for his own use--even the published documents can be

found in matching bindings. Most of the volumes in this collection contain a slip of paper that says "João Cezar, L. Encadernadores Douradores, Casa Fundada em I de Janeiro de 1901 – executamos todos os trabalhos de Encadernador e Dourador. Rua do Norte, 109 Lisboa." This translated roughly to "João Cezar, L. bookbinder/gilder, founded on January 1, 1901 – We perform all the works of bookbinder and gilder." It appears to be a business card left in the volumes by the company that bound them.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2017 May 8

Finding aid prepared by Kelin Baldrige.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

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Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- Conference of Government Experts for the Study of the Conventions for the Protection of War Victims (1947 : Geneva, Switzerland).
- Diplomatic Conference for the Establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of Victims of War (1949 : Geneva, Switzerland).
- International Conference of the Red Cross (17th : 1948 : Stockholm, Sweden).
- International Conference of the Red Cross.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Drafts (documents)
- Minutes (Records)
- Reports

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- United States--History--20th century

SUBJECT(S)

- Diplomacy
- Prisoners of war
- War (International law)
- War victims
- War--Protection of civilians
- War--Relief of sick and wounded

Collection Inventory

I. RESEARCH ON 1929 GENEVA CONVENTIONS 9 GENEVA CONVENTIONS.

	Box	Folder
<i>Actes de la Conférence Diplomatique de Genève</i> (contains 1929 revision of acts from the 1906 convention, especially related to the sick and injured in the field and of conventional treatment of prisoners of war; list of nations participating in 1864 and 1906 conventions; plans for the Geneva Convention; a list of documents published for the conference; and a list of delegates to the conference which was held in July 1929), 1930.	1	1
<i>Prisoners of War: Convention Between the United States of America and Other Powers and Amelioration of the Conditions of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field</i> , signed at Geneva, July 27, 1939 ... Proclaimed by the President of the United States, August 4, 1932 and <i>Repatriation and Hospitalization of Prisoners of War</i> arrangement between the United States and Germany (published copies of final conventions), 1932, 1942.	1	2
<i>La Croix Rouge et les Conventions de Genève Analyse et Synthèse Juridiques</i> (contains a preface by Paul des Gouttes, former vice president of the International Red Cross, published posthumously, and an analysis of former Geneva Conventions), 1943.	1	3

II. CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS FOR THE STUDY OF THE CONVENTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS, HELD IN GENEVA, 1947 APRIL 14-26.

	Box	Folder
Proposals for Possible Revision of International Conventions Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (includes copy of each article with suggested revisions as well as comments by governmental departments and committees), 1947 April.	1	4
Commission of Government Experts for the Study of Conventions for the Protection of War Victims (includes preliminary documents submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross and a revision of the Geneva Convention and Related Treaty Provisions), 1947 April 14-16.	1	5
Report of the American Delegation of the Meeting of Government Experts Called at Geneva, 14 April 1947 by International Red Cross Committee, 1947 April 14.	1	6
<i>Report on the Work of the Conference of Government Experts for the Study of the Conventions for the Protection of War Victims</i> , 1947 April 14-26.	1	7

III. XVIITH INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE HELD IN STOCKHOLM, 1848 AUGUST.

	Box	Folder
XVII ^{ème} conférence de la croix rouge: liste provisoire des participants à la date du 12 aout 1948 (includes program for conference in Stockholm as well as programs and menus for events held for conference participants), 1948 August.	2	1

IV. DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAR VICTIMS HELD IN GENEVA AND RESULTING COMMITTEE WORK, 1949

EBRUARY-AUGUST.

	Box	Folder
<i>Revised and New Draft Conventions for the Protection of Wartime Victims: Remarks and Proposals submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross</i> , documents for the consideration of governments invited to attend the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva, 1949 February.	2	2
Working Document drawn up for the Diplomatic Conference for the establishment of International Conventions for the Protection of War Victims, 1949 April 21.	2	3
Committee III "Convention on the Protection of Civilians" meeting notes, 1949 April-July.	2	4
Draft report of Committee III "Convention on the Protection of Civilians" (includes amendments and comments from delegations), 1949 April-July.	2	5
"First report of the Joint Committee to the Plenary Assembly" (draft) relating to articles common to all four Conventions, 1949 April-July.	2	6
Plenary Meetings notes, 1949 April-August.	3	1
Committee III, "Convention on the Protection of Civilians" articles 49 through 135, 1949 May-July.	3	2
Draft of articles of the Convention for the Relief of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field; the Convention for the Relief of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces on Sea; and the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 1949 July-August.	3	3
Draft of the articles of the Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949 July-August.	3	4
Legal Commission Report: Texts of Conventions, undated.	3	5