

Charles Henry Burr papers

Ms. Coll. 1015

Finding aid prepared by Devorah Sperling-Billings.

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

2014 July 22

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Burr, Charles H.# (Charles Henry), 1869-
Title	Charles Henry Burr papers
Call number	Ms. Coll. 1015
Date [inclusive]	1913-1923
Extent	0.4 linear feet (1 box)
Language	English
Abstract	Charles Henry Burr, Jr. (1869-1925), was a prominent lawyer in Philadelphia. This collection contains a manuscript for the unpublished "Toward the American Constitution," letters to the editors of <i>Metropolitan</i> and the <i>Public Ledger</i> , and short essays.

Cite as:

Charles Henry Burr manuscript collection, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Charles Henry Burr, Jr. (1869-1925), was a prominent lawyer in Philadelphia. He earned degrees from Penn Charter School, Haverford College (Bachelor of Arts), and the University of Pennsylvania (Masters of Arts, with a thesis on Contributory Negligence). From 1912 to 1919, he was employed by the legal offices of Thomas Leaming, Philadelphia, and his caseload was largely international, with American cases relating to Germany, Holland, and England. In 1912, he won the Henry M. Phillips Prize of the American Philosophical Society for his essay "The Treaty-Making Power of the United States and the Methods of Its Enforcement." He spent much of World War I in Europe and in 1919, published an account, "German Business Methods in the United States," which focused on a case against the Badische Co. of Germany.

During much of his life, he worked on legal history, especially in collaboration with Professor Morris Jastrow of the University of Pennsylvania on the law codes of Babylonia. He took an active interest also in legal developments and literature in America. He worked for years on a historical study of the American Constitution.

In 1899, Burr married Anna Robeson Brown (1873-1941), a novelist and literary scholar, and was the father of two daughters, Dorothy (born 1900) and Pamela (born 1905). Burr died in Philadelphia in 1925.

Scope and Contents

The Charles Henry Burr papers contains a manuscript for the unpublished "Toward the American Constitution," letters to the editors of *Metropolitan* and the *Public Ledger*, and short essays.

The bulk of the material consists of a manuscript for "Toward the American Constitution," which is an annotated typescript. The manuscript is incomplete: sections six and eight are not present, and it appears that Burr planned to edit the chapters that are included with the "additions" and notes, which follow the existing typescript. It is unclear if Burr intended to write further chapters, or if "XII. Representative Government," was to be the final chapter.

Burr wrote one letter each to the editors of the *Metropolitan* and the *Public Ledger*. To the editor of the *Metropolitan*, Burr wrote regarding George Bernard Shaw's, "The Case for Equality," an address Shaw delivered in 1913. The creation of the League of Nations is the subject of Burr's letter to the editor of the *Public Ledger* in 1919.

The collection also contains four short essays, mostly undated, on various subjects from the new revenue bill to Goethe. It is presumed that these essays were written by Burr.

Administrative Information

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Access Restrictions

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Source of Acquisition

Deposited by Dorothy Burr Thompson and Pamela Burr, 1975.

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Correspondence
- Essays
- Typescripts

SUBJECT(S)

- Constitutional history--United States

Collection Inventory

"TOWARDS THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION".

	Box	Folder
"Social Compact and Popular Sovereignty," Sec. I, 1-63, 1923.	1	1
"Social Compact and Popular Sovereignty," Sec. II, 68-108, 1923.	1	2
"State and Sovereignty," Sec. III, 109-128, 1923.	1	3
"Sovereignty and Bodin," Sec. IV, 129-137, 1923.	1	4
"Nature of Law," Sec. V, 138-171, 1923.	1	5
"The Judicial Idea," Sec. VII, 198-211, 1923.	1	6
"Equality," Sec. IX, 228-242, 1923.	1	7
"Rights of Man," Sec. X, 243-253, 1923.	1	8
"Democracy," Sec. XI, 254-278, 1923.	1	9
"Representative Government," Sec. XII, 279-unnumbered, 1923.	1	10
Additions, "Sovereignty and Social Compact", 1923.	1	11
Additions to and notes on "Sovereignty and Bodin", 1923.	1	12
Additions to and notes on "The Judicial Idea", 1923.	1	13
Additions to and notes on "Rights of Man", 1923.	1	14

Additions and notes, untitled, 1923.	1	15
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

	Box	Folder
To the editor of the <i>Metropolitan</i> , regarding George Bernard Shaw's, "The Case for Equality", undated.	1	16
To the editor of the <i>Public Ledger</i> regarding the creation of the League of Nations, 1919.	1	17

SHORT ESSAYS (PROBABLY BY BURR).

	Box	Folder
The Revenue Bill, 1919.	1	18
Introductory Essay: "Goethe and the Frau von Stein", undated.	1	19
"Matthew Arnold as an Essayist", undated.	1	20
"A Short Essay on Some Modern Attitudes Toward Christianity", undated.	1	21