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Robert Lansing Papers, 1882-1929 (bulk 1905-1928): Finding Aid

Summary Information

Call number:	MC083
Location:	Princeton University Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Public Policy Papers. 65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size:	5.5 linear feet (13 archival boxes)
Language(s) of material:	English
Abstract:	The Robert Lansing Papers document the later years of Robert Lansing (1864-1928), lawyer, writer, and the longest serving of Woodrow Wilson's three Secretaries of State. During his tenure as Secretary of State (June 23, 1915 to February 13, 1920), the United States entered the First World War on the side of the Entente Powers. Deliberations and negotiations associated with the precarious neutrality which preceded this event and the troubled peace which followed it dominated Lansing's time in office and are reflected in his papers. Lansing's interests as a lawyer, which were international in scope and substance, and the diverse subjects which commanded his attention as a writer – subjects ranging from biblical history

to English etymology – are also evident. The Lansing Papers consist of official papers, personal papers, writings and speeches, diaries, sketches, and photographs. Though by no means exhaustive, they shed light on many aspects of Lansing's life and times.

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Biography of Robert Lansing

Lansing was born in Watertown, New York on October 17, 1864. The son of John and Maria Lay (Dodge) Lansing, he could trace his American ancestry to the middle years of the seventeenth century. His religious and political loyalties were Presbyterian and Democratic. He attended Amherst College in Massachusetts, graduating in 1886, and, like his father and grandfather before him, entered the legal profession. He joined his father's practice following his admission to the bar in 1889, but it was his father-in-law and one-time Secretary of State, John Watson Foster, who interested him in global affairs and the international arbitral panels before which he would appear more often than any American lawyer of the time. In 1892, he was named associate counsel for the United States in the Bering Sea Arbitration, an appointment which took him to Paris. In the years which followed, he represented American interests before such bodies as the Bering Sea Claims Commission, the Alaskan Boundary Tribunal, the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration, the Fur Seal Conference, and the British and American Claims Arbitration. In addition to private interests, he served as counsel for the Mexican and Chinese legations in Washington between 1894 and 1895 and 1900 and 1901. In 1906, Lansing helped to found the American Society of International Law, and, in 1907, he helped to launch the American Journal of International Law, of which he became an associate editor.

On March 27, 1914, he was appointed Counselor for the Department of State, unaware of the burdens soon to be imposed on him by the outbreak of the First World War. As the second highest official in the department, he was called upon to serve as acting secretary in the absence of William Jennings Bryan. Bryan's resignation over the ramifications of the sinking of the Lusitania opened the way for Lansing's appointment as Secretary of State on June 23, 1915, an unusual choice on Wilson's part in light of Lansing's lack of political stature. The President and his confidant, Edward Mandell House, exercised far more influence over the conduct of foreign policy than Lansing, but his familiarity with the workings of international law was an asset as the administration grappled with the thorny questions arising from the need to define and safeguard the rights of neutrals in a world at war.

Neutrality, which had grown steadily more untenable as hostilities intensified, was abandoned in 1917. Diplomatic ties with Germany were severed on February 3, and a state of war was declared to exist between the countries on April 6, developments Lansing both expected and welcomed. In the first days of his tenure, he had outlined in a private memorandum his views on Germany, noting that "German absolutism is the great menace to democracy" and raising the specter of a triumphant reich allying itself with an autocratic Russia and Japan in a coordinated assault on human liberty. He was not, however, an advocate of revenge, dubbing the reparations bruited by Great Britain and France "simple madness." The positions of foreign leaders were not the only ones he questioned as the spotlight shifted from the battlefield to the conference table. Lansing, who travelled to Paris as a member of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, found himself in irreconcilable disagreement with Wilson over a number of issues, the most important of which concerned the nature of the President's beloved League of Nations and the wisdom of framing its covenant in conjunction with the treaties of peace. Lansing went so far as to question the appropriateness of his superior's presence in Paris on the grounds that it would lessen his stature and, thus, his influence at home and abroad. Lansing's advice on these and other matters was unwelcome, and though he was one of the signatories of the Treaty of Versailles, his ability to influence events was minimal.

While issues associated with the First World War occupied center stage during his time in office, Lansing was also obliged to deal with the volatile political situation in Mexico and the tensions which threatened to spark a full-scale war between this strife-torn country and the United States. Differences with Wilson over the propriety of intervention in Mexican affairs in the fall of 1919 did nothing to narrow the rift between them. Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which were occupied by American troops in 1915 and 1916 respectively, constituted minor flash points and, as such, afforded Lansing greater scope for independent action. Strains in Japanese-American relations were a matter of concern as well, particularly in regard to the status of China. The

Lansing-Ishii Agreement, negotiated in the fall of 1917, was intended to preserve China's territorial integrity and political independence while recognizing – ominously in light of later events – Japan's “special interests” there. The Bolshevik revolution posed challenges as novel as they were farreaching, not least of which was the collapse of the eastern front. Lansing loathed Bolshevism, which he described in a private memorandum as “the most hideous and monstrous thing that the human mind has ever conceived,” and opposed extending diplomatic recognition to the new regime.

The last months of Lansing's tenure as Secretary of State were overshadowed by domestic opposition to the peace settlement arrived at in Paris, culminating in the refusal of the Senate to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, and the physical and psychological collapse of Wilson in the fall of 1919. In the resultant vacuum, Lansing felt it proper to summon meetings of the cabinet, a practice which aroused the ire of the convalescent President, who accused him of usurping presidential power. Lansing's resignation, which took effect on February 13, 1920, was as willingly offered as it was accepted. Lansing had, in fact, considered resigning well before this point, privately likening his position to that of “a school boy or a rubber stamp,” but his sense of duty had restrained him.

Now he happily returned to private life. He resumed the practice of international law in partnership with Lester Hood Woolsey, who had served as Solicitor for the Department of State, and was retained by a number of countries. They included Chile, whose interests he and Woolsey represented in the Tacna-Arica Arbitration. Lansing used his new leisure to record his opinions and impressions of the peace conference, though he refrained from publicizing his disagreements with Wilson until the change in administrations in 1921, and he was working on an extensive account of his years as Secretary of State at the time of his death. His examination of the peace conference took the form of two books, *The Peace Negotiations: A Personal Narrative* and *The Big Four and Others of the Peace Conference*, and part of his unfinished manuscript was published posthumously under the title, *War Memoirs of Robert Lansing*. He died in Washington, D.C. on October 30, 1928.

Description

With the exception of a small number of sketches and photographs, the Lansing Papers consist exclusively of typescript and manuscript material, including letters, telegrams, memoranda, essays, addresses, and diaries. While this material documents many of Lansing's concerns, particularly in his capacity as a lawyer, writer, and public official, there are significant lacunae. Among Lansing's official and personal papers, some years are entirely unrepresented while others are virtually so. Enclosures referred to in letters are often missing. There is a ten-year gap in his diaries between 1910 and 1921. While his writings and speeches are also incomplete – the absence of his most widely noted work, *The Peace Negotiations: A Personal Narrative*, is a case in point – they form by far the largest and, in many respects, the most revealing body of material in the Lansing Papers. Lansing's literary and scholarly works are well-represented, as are his treatments of contemporary issues arising within and without the corridors of power.

Lansing was a reflective man who committed his views to paper both during and after the events in which he was involved. The principal insights which the Lansing Papers offer are related less to the daily workings of public and private life than to the concerns and convictions which underpin them. To the extent that Wilson was his own Secretary of State and denied Lansing his confidence, particularly in the closing months of their association, it is perhaps appropriate that Lansing's thoughts bulk larger than his actions in these papers. Through them, his character and environment can be gauged. A biographical sketch prepared for *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* could be accused of over-enthusiasm in averring that Lansing occupied “a preeminent position in the councils of the world,” but it is plain that he was part of the dynamics if not necessarily the decisions which shaped the fortunes of the United States and its neighbors at a pivotal point in

the twentieth-century. For further information on individual series please see series descriptions located in the contents list portion of this finding aid.

Series 1: Official Papers, 1882-1925

Series 1: Official Papers, consists of material relating to Lansing's work as Counselor and, subsequently, Secretary of State and, though little exists, to his work as a lawyer before and after these appointments. The topics treated in this material are diverse, and the descriptions in the folder list which follows are by no means exclusive. They do, however, illustrate the range of matters with which Lansing had to deal: from the misdeeds of diplomats, as in the Sullivan scandal, to the intricate maneuvers of governments, as in the Austro-Hungarian peace overture. While the eclecticism of this series is not an adequate substitute for completeness – the years 1917 and 1918 are the only ones to comprise more than two folders – users can acquire an appreciation of a variety of issues as defined and interpreted by Lansing and his correspondents. In the process, larger phenomena can be discerned, whether it is House's ubiquitous influence, as evidenced by correspondence concerning the appointment of a Counselor to fill Lansing's shoes, or Wilson's deteriorated health, as evidenced by correspondence concerning the appointment of an ambassador to Switzerland.

The descriptions in the folder list include not only representative subjects but also the names of the individuals who addressed them. Not unexpectedly, the bulk of material in this series was generated by Lansing and his officials, many of whom were communicating telegraphically from Europe. (There is even an undeciphered telegram from Paris to tease the curious.) The communications of foreign representatives appear occasionally, as do those of interested private parties, including the writer George Kennan on Russian matters. The President excepted, little exists from other governmental units. The most exotic letter in this series, dated 17 January 1918, undoubtedly comes from one Matilda de Cramm, who frequented the American embassy in Petrograd and was suspected in Washington of being a German agent. It should be noted that the first folder in this series contains a lone letter from Secretary of State Frelinghuysen to Senator, later, President, Harrison. The circumstances under which Lansing, a teenager at the time it was written, acquired it are unclear, but its content, a claim against Mexico, fell within his professional sphere of interest at a later date and is, therefore, included among his official papers. Users looking for a fuller record of Lansing's time in office would do well to consult the appropriate volumes of *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States*, published by the Department of State. The Woodrow Wilson Papers Project Records, which are also housed in the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, are another potentially fruitful source of information.

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1912-1929

Series 2: Personal Papers, contains a sampling of material relating to Lansing's private concerns. It, too, represents the tip of an iceberg but is sufficient to convey a sense of both the prosaic and the notable in Lansing's life: from the purchase of a Packard, complete with Lansing's monogram, to the signing of the Treaty of Versailles. The descriptions in the folder list are, once again, only indicative of the subjects and corresponding individuals represented in this series. There is a significant body of material relating to the publication of Lansing's books on the peace conference, and while correspondence with Houghton Mifflin Company, the successful publisher, predominates, its rivals are also represented.

Arguably the most interesting component of Lansing's personal papers is a sequence of long and candid letters written to an intimate circle of colleagues and friends, including John William Davis, the Democratic Party's nominee for president in 1924, between 1918 and 1920. The replies of these individuals, many of whom were fellow members of the Phorntightly Klub, or P. K. as it was called, have not survived, but it is clear that Lansing was on such terms with them that he could unburden himself with relative freedom. His letters, therefore, constitute not only an interesting chronicle of the times but an entree into his thinking. The following excerpts, the one from a letter to a colleague; the other from a letter to a friend, are not atypical. Lansing to Polk on the peace conference: "I really wish that I was at home and out of it all, because under the present system of secret

conclaves by the heads of states I feel so helpless and unable to check or even advise as to the course which should be pursued.” Lansing to Smith on Wilson: “I am not blind to the fact that the President has sought to make himself the great central engine which controls all the machinery of government, and that during the war this made for its efficient prosecution and was therefore accepted by every one.” Although it postdates Lansing's death, this series also contains a body of correspondence concerning his estate and emanating, for the most part, from Penfield & Penfield, the firm charged with its management.

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-1928

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, encompasses a wide array of works, each of which is identified by title in the folder list, and illustrates the breadth of Lansing's interests. The material in this series, much of which was unpublished, ranges from patriotic calls to arms, such as the “Address Before the Reserve Officers' Training Corps,” to scholarly treatments of historical subjects, such as “The Hebrew Kingdoms: A Brief Account of their Origin, Political Development and Relations to Other Nations,” to whimsical verses, such as “English Spelled and Spoken.” Lansing even turned his hand to children's stories in “Real Boys.” His ability to combine fiction and nonfiction is demonstrated in “Letters of Cornelius,” a collection of missives from a rough spoken doughboy detailed to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace. Lansing's private and public treatment of events to which he was a party or phenomena to which he was a witness are insightful and fill gaps which exist in other series.

Of particular interest are “Confidential Memoranda and Notes,” which were written between 1915 and 1921, and, on a less intimate plane, “The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs: 1915-1920,” an unfinished account of his time in office. The former compilation contains reflections on issues of national and international importance, including many relating to wartime and postwar diplomacy, as well as on matters of a more restricted interest, including an acerbic commentary on “President Wilson's Use of the Word ‘Damn’.” The probing quality of Lansing's pen is captured by a note in which he reflects upon his own reflections. The evidential value of this material, he himself concluded, lies in the fact that it “recites the progress of thought and explains the reason often for conclusions and policies which might otherwise seem obscure or inexplicable.” In his writings and speeches, Lansing left a multifaceted picture of himself and his world, which, if sometimes disturbing (he believed that, unaided, “social organization and the efficient exercise of political government are beyond the faculties of the black race”) answer many questions.

Series 4: Diaries, 1908-1928

Series 4: Diaries, is a further expression of Lansing's predilection for the written word. The first of them is distinct in that its entries follow one another at irregular intervals and, frequently, assume a retrospective character. It also favors full sentences and, partly for this reason, has a narrative quality the others lack. While diaries do not exist for the period coincident with Lansing's tenure as Secretary of State, they supplement, albeit in a somewhat skeletal form, the otherwise fragmentary record of his legal activities before and after his years in the public eye. The diary for 1908-1910, for example, refers extensively to the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration in which Lansing appeared on behalf of the United States. While the entries in the other diaries are considerably terser, they clearly establish the pattern of Lansing's life between 1921 and 1928. His days were active; his professional and social engagements many. Although he was no longer Secretary of State, it is evident from the nature of his work and the circles in which he moved that he remained very much a part of his former world. His appetite for reading and, in summer, fishing are also illustrated by his diaries.

Series 5: Sketches, 1919

Series 5: Sketches, consists of a collection of fifty-eight pencil drawings of individuals whom Lansing encountered at the peace conference. Drawn in all but two instances on blank memoranda of the American

Commission to Negotiate Peace, they attest to the pleasure he derived from sketching and, quite possibly, to the tedium of the proceedings. Most of his sketches are unidentified. Among those that bear a name can be found the likenesses of Arthur James Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, in a characteristic doze; Tasker Howard Bliss, a fellow member of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, and Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor.

Series 6: Photographs, n.d.

Series 6: Photographs, consists of seven black and white photographs of varying size. The four relating to Tsingtao, China should be considered in the context of the controversy which arose over the fate of the Shantung Peninsula of which it was a part. The former German concession had been seized by Japan in 1914, and, at the peace conference, Japan's claims in this area were accepted at the expense of China's, much to the dismay of Lansing and his colleagues. The inscription which accompanies the photograph of Wilson, "To my trusted friend, Robert Lansing, with the warmest good wishes," is ironic in light of the terms on which the two men parted.

Arrangement

The Lansing Papers are divided into six series arranged as follows:

Series 1, 2, and 4 are arranged chronologically while Series 3 and 6 are arranged alphabetically. Series 5 consists of a single collection of sketches.

- Series 1: Official Papers, 1882-1925
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- Series 4: Diaries, 1908-1928
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- Series 6: Photographs, n.d.

Access and Use

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material in these papers must be requested of the Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections.

Provenance and Acquisition

The Lansing Papers were donated to Princeton University in three installments by the late Allen Welsh Dulles, either in person or through his estate, between 1963 and 1974. Dulles was a nephew of Lansing's wife, the former Eleanor Foster. The Lansings were childless, and Dulles and his brother, John Foster, were, in the former's words, Lansing's "literary heirs." Photostatic copies of a four-item donation by Thomas Quinn Beesley, which was forwarded by Princeton University to the Library of Congress in 1950, are also included in the Lansing Papers.

Related Material

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, date if known, Robert Lansing Papers, box and folder numbers, Public Policy Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Libraries.

Encoding

Machine-readable finding aid encoded in EAD 2002 by Techbooks on 23 August 2005.

Descriptive Rules Used

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Subject Headings

These materials have been indexed in the [Princeton University Library online catalog](#) using the following terms. Those seeking related materials should search under these terms.

- Davis, John W. (John William), 1873-1955 -- Correspondence.
- Francis, David Rowland, 1850-1927xCorrespondence.
- House, Edward Mandell, 1858-1924 -- Correspondence.
- Kennan, George, 1845-1924 -- Correspondence.
- Page, Walter Hines, 1855-1918 -- Correspondence.
- Polk, Frank L. (Frank Lyon), 1871-1943 -- Correspondence.
- Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924 -- Correspondence.
- United States. Dept. of State -- 20th century.
- United States. American Commission to Negotiate Peace.
- Paris Peace Conference (1919-1920)
- Cabinet officers -- United States -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
- Diplomatic and consular service, American -- 20th century.
- Neutrality -- United States -- 20th century.
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Diplomatic history.
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Peace.
- Asia -- Foreign relations -- United States -- 20th century.
- Europe -- Foreign relations -- United States -- 20th century.
- Latin America -- Foreign relations -- United States -- 20th century.
- Mexico -- History -- Revolution, 1910-1920.
- Soviet Union -- History -- Revolution, 1917-1921.
- United States -- Foreign relations -- Asia -- 20th century.
- United States -- Foreign relations -- Europe -- 20th century.
- United States -- Foreign relations -- Latin America -- 20th century.
- United States -- Foreign relations -- Treaties -- 20th century.
- United States -- Politics and government -- 20th century.
- Correspondence.

- Diaries.
- Photographs.
- Speeches.
- Typescripts.
- Lawyers -- United States.
- American history/20th century
- American politics and government
- World War I

Contents List

Series 1: Official Papers, 1882-1925

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Letter from Frederick Frelinghuysen to Benjamin Harrison re Wallace claim on Mexico, 1882 Mar	1	1
Includes Lansing re international courts of arbitration , 1910 May	1	2
Includes Lansing re administration of Spitzbergen, 1911 Jan	1	3

Series 1: Official Papers, 1882-1925 ... (Continued)

Includes Lansing, C.P. Anderson, and Crammond Kennedy re Prevost-Hobson arbitration, 1913 Jul-Dec	1	4
Includes Lansing re Monroe doctrine, 1914 Apr-Jun	1	5
Includes Lansing, Woodrow Wilson, and William Phillips re Sullivan scandal, 1915 Jan-Jul	1	6
Includes Lansing, E.M. House, and F.L. Polk re appointment of Polk as Counselor for Department of State, 1915 Aug-Dec	1	7
Includes Lansing, Woodrow Wilson, and J.W. Davis re 1916 presidential election, 1916 Jan-Nov	1	8
Includes Lansing, Woodrow Wilson, and W.H. Page re presidential note to belligerents, 1916 Dec	1	9
Includes Lansing, Woodrow Wilson, and D.R. Francis re Mooney case, 1917 Jan-May	1	10
Includes Lansing re papal peace appeal, 1917 May-Sep	2	1
Includes Lansing, D.R. Francis, and William Phillips re Bolshevik revolution, 1917 Sep-Dec	2	2
Includes Lansing and Woodrow Wilson re war mission to Great Britain and France, 1917 Dec	2	3
Lansing-Ishii Agreement, 1917	2	4
Includes Lansing, H.R. Wilson, and W.H. Page re Austro-Hungarian peace overture, 1918 Jan-Feb	2	5
Includes Lansing and E.M. House re League of Nations, 1918 Feb-Apr	2	6
Includes Lansing and Woodrow Wilson re dismemberment of Austria-Hungary, 1918 May-Jul	2	7
Includes Josephus Daniels, Breckinridge Long, and F.L. Polk re transfer of Japanese battle cruisers to Hampton Roads, 1918 Jul-Sep	3	1
Includes Lansing and Woodrow Wilson re armistice, 1918 Oct-Dec	3	2
Includes E.T. Williams re disposition of Japanese held German islands, 1919 Jan-Sep	3	3
Includes Lansing, J.V.A. MacMurray, and N.T. Johnson re international consortium in China, 1919 Oct-Dec	3	4
Includes Lansing and Woodrow Wilson re resignation of Lansing as Secretary of State, 1920 Feb-Mar	3	5

Series 1: Official Papers, 1882-1925 ... (Continued)

Includes Lansing re international claims, 1925 Mar-Nov	3	6
Includes Lawrence Townsend re dismemberment of Austria-Hungary, n.d.	3	7

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1912-1929**Series Description**

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<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Includes Lansing and A.F. Lansing re property, 1912 Nov	3	8
Includes Lansing and A.F. Lansing re property, 1913 Jan-Sep	3	9
Includes Lansing and Henry Eager re Eager Electric Company, 1914 Jan-May	3	10
Includes Lansing, C.E. Hotchkiss, and C.P. Anderson re evacuation from Europe of Hotchkiss family, 1914 Aug-Sep	3	11
Includes Collin Armstrong re address to Amherst College alumni, 1915 Jan-Mar	3	12
Includes C.H. Hollister re social visit, 1915 Sep-Nov	3	13
Includes Lansing and G.A. Finch re address to American Society of International Law,	3	14

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1916 Jun

Includes Lansing and J.B. Lippincott re potential book, 1918 Jun-Nov	3	15
Includes Lansing re tour of battlefields, 1918 Dec	3	16
Includes Lansing re proceedings of peace conference, 1919 Jan-May	3	17
Includes Lansing re Treaty of Versailles, 1919 May-Aug	4	1
Includes Lansing re debate over peace settlement, 1919 Aug-Dec	4	2
Includes Lansing re Russian situation, 1920 Jan-Mar	4	3
Includes Lansing re infirmity of Woodrow Wilson, 1920 Apr-Nov	4	4
Includes Lansing, R.L. Scaife, and Ferris Greenslet re <i>The Peace Negotiations: A Personal Narrative</i> , 1920 Nov-Dec	4	5
Includes Lansing, R.L. Scaife, and Ferris Greenslet re <i>The Peace Negotiations: A Personal Narrative</i> , 1921 Jan-Feb	4	6
Includes Lansing, R.L. Scaife, and Ferris Greenslet re <i>The Peace Negotiations: A Personal Narrative</i> , 1921 Feb-Apr	5	1
Includes Lansing, R.L. Scaife, and Ferris Greenslet re <i>The Big Four and Others of the Peace Conference</i> , 1921 Apr-Nov	5	2
Includes Lansing and J.T. Faris re “Moses the Statesman”, 1922 Jan-Oct	5	3
Includes Lansing, G.W.O. Oakes, and M.S. Wertheimer re “The Kaiser's Memoirs”, 1922 Oct-Dec	5	4
Includes Lansing and J.E. Freeman re inspirational letter, 1923 Feb-Aug	5	5
Includes Lansing, J.A. Thomas, and R.M. McElroy re lunch with American Asiatic Association and China Society of America, 1923 Oct-Nov	5	6
Includes Lansing and H.B. Swope re death of Woodrow Wilson, 1924 Feb-Nov	5	7
Includes Lansing re 1924 presidential election, 1925 Jan-Jun	5	8
Includes Lansing re death of William Jennings Bryan, 1925 Jul-Nov	5	9
Includes Lansing and J.L. Bray re United States Daily Publishing Corporation, 1926 Mar-May	5	10
Includes R.P. Hobson re World Conference on Narcotic Education, 1926 May	5	11

Series 2: Personal Papers, 1912-1929 ... (Continued)

Includes T.E. Burton re centennial of American Peace Society, 1927 May-Nov	5	12
Includes David Lawrence re United States Daily Publishing Corporation, 1928 Jan-Sep	5	13
Includes R.C. Alexander re subjects of articles to be written for <i>La Prensa</i> , n.d.	5	14
Posthumous correspondence re Lansing estate, 1928 Oct-Dec	5	15
Posthumous correspondence re Lansing estate, 1929 May-Nov	5	16

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-1928**Subseries Description**

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, encompasses a wide array of works, each of which is identified by title in the folder list, and illustrates the breadth of Lansing's interests. The material in this series, much of which was unpublished, ranges from patriotic calls to arms, such as the "Address Before the Reserve Officers' Training Corps," to scholarly treatments of historical subjects, such as "The Hebrew Kingdoms: A Brief Account of their Origin, Political Development and Relations to Other Nations," to whimsical verses, such as "English Spelled and Spoken." Lansing even turned his hand to children's stories in "Real Boys." His ability to combine fiction and nonfiction is demonstrated in "Letters of Cornelius," a collection of missives from a rough spoken doughboy detailed to the American Commission to Negotiate Peace. Lansing's private and public treatment of events to which he was a party or phenomena to which he was a witness are insightful and fill gaps which exist in other series.

Of particular interest are "Confidential Memoranda and Notes," which were written between 1915 and 1921, and, on a less intimate plane, "The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs: 1915-1920," an unfinished account of his time in office. The former compilation contains reflections on issues of national and international importance, including many relating to wartime and postwar diplomacy, as well as on matters of a more restricted interest, including an acerbic commentary on "President Wilson's Use of the Word 'Damn'." The probing quality of Lansing's pen is captured by a note in which he reflects upon his own reflections. The evidential value of this material, he himself concluded, lies in the fact that it "recites the progress of thought and explains the reason often for conclusions and policies which might otherwise seem obscure or inexplicable." In his writings and speeches, Lansing left a multifaceted picture of himself and his world, which, if sometimes disturbing (he believed that, unaided, "social organization and the efficient exercise of political government are beyond the faculties of the black race") answer many questions.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Address at Meeting of Governing Board of the Pan American Union, 1918	5	17
Address Before the New York State Bar Association, 1918	5	18
Address Before the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, 1917	5	19
Address Delivered at a Dinner Given in Lansing's Honor by the Jefferson County Bar	5	20

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-19 ... (Continued)

Association, 1916

Address Delivered at Amherst Alumni Dinner, 1915	5	21
Address Delivered at the Tenth Annual Banquet of the American Society of International Law, 1916	5	22
Address on the Occasion of the Visit to the Tomb of Washington of the Serbian Mission, 1918	5	23
Address on the Third Anniversary of Italy's Entrance into the War, 1918	5	24
Address [on the United States' Obligations to Domiciled Aliens], n.d.	5	25
Address Opening Sessions of Boundary Commissioners of Guatemala and Honduras, 1918	5	26
Address to the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1918	6	1
Address to the Governing Board of the Pan American Union on the Death of Mr. Santiago Aldunate, Chilean Ambassador, 1918	6	2
The Alaskan Boundary Controversy, 1927	6	3
The Alaskan Boundary Tribunal in Session at London in, 1903 1927	6	4
Alexander McLean, Pirate, 1927	6	5
American Optimism, 1917	6	6
An American Peace, n.d.	6	7
Arab Civilization:, From the 8th to the 15th Century 1905	6	8
The Bible in English, 1927	6	9
Cabinet Meetings During the President's Illness, n.d.	6	10
College Spirit, 1917	6	11
The Condition of the East at the Time of the Crusades, 1927	6	12
The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs, 1915-1920 (part 1, chapters 1-12), n.d.	6	13
The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs, 1915-1920 (part 1, chapters 13-19), n.d.	6	14
The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs, 1915-1920 (part 1, chapters 20-24), n.d.	6	15
The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs, 1915-1920 (part 2, chapters 1-8), n.d.	6	16

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-19 ... (Continued)

The Conduct of American Foreign Affairs, 1915-1920 (part 2, chapters 9-14), n.d.	7	1
Confidential Memoranda and Notes, April 15, 1915 to December 30, 1918 1915-1918	7	2
Confidential Memoranda and Notes, January 2 to December 27, 1919 1919	7	3
Confidential Memoranda and Notes Addendum, 1920-1921	7	4
The Critical Time in American Foreign Relations During the War for Secession, 1927	7	5
The Dangers of Peace, 1912	7	6
Dante and his Century, 1927	7	7
David, n.d.	7	8
A Definition of Sovereignty, 1913	7	9
The Development of the American Foreign Service and its Administration, 1920	7	10
The Dominant Idea in Modern Political Thought, 1911	7	11
English Spelled and Spoken, 1911	7	12
An Excursion Among English Surnames, 1911	7	13
The Fallacy of Outlaw War, 1924	7	14
Fishing Days: Brief Sketches of Experiences on Lake Ontario and its Shores and Islands Near Henderson Bay, 1928	7	15
Forty Thieves of Time, n.d.	8	1
Free Will, n.d.	8	2
A Glance at the English Language, 1927	8	3
The Hebrew Kingdoms: A Brief Account of their Origin, Political Development and Relations to Other Nations (chapters 1-9), n.d.	8	4
The Hebrew Kingdoms: A Brief Account of their Origin, Political Development and Relations to Other Nations (chapters 10-20), n.d.	8	5
Immigration, n.d.	8	6
The Importance of Popularizing Archaeology and Kindred Sciences, 1926	8	7
Impressions of Other Statesmen at the Peace Conference, n.d.	8	8

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-19 ... (Continued)

Internationalism, 1925	8	9
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Introduction of Hon. James W. Gerard at Dedication of Liberty Hut, 1918	8	11
Introduction of President Made by Lansing as Presiding Officer at the Flag Day Exercises, 1916	8	12
The Iroquois, 1912	8	13
The Iroquois Confederacy or League of the Long House, 1927	8	14
The Iroquois League of Nations, 1921	8	15
Jacob, n.d.	8	16
Jefferson County: Historical Review of the Region Prior to the First Permanent Settlement in, 1797 1927	8	17
Joseph, n.d.	8	18
The Kaiser's Memoirs, 1922	8	19
The League of Nations, 1925	8	20
Letters of Cornelius, 1919	9	1
Lincoln, n.d.	9	2
A Linguistic Slumming Trip, 1911	9	3
Memoranda [on the United States at War inter alia], 1917	9	4
Memorandum for Meeting of American Institute of International Law, 1915	9	5
Memorandum of Remarks at Pan American Dinner, 1916	9	6
Memorandum on the Idea of an Association of Nations, 1921	9	7
Memorandum [on the Near and Far East], 1926	9	8
Memorandum [on the Panama Canal], 1915	9	9
Message to Dinner of Transportation Conference, 1916	9	10
Miscellaneous [Notes], n.d.	9	11
Moses the Statesman, 1922	9	12

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-19 ... (Continued)

National Ideals and National Character, 1916	9	13
Nationality and the Present Balkan Situation, 1909 (article)	9	14
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The Nature of Sovereignty, 1913	9	15
New Testament [Notes], 1911-1912	9	16
The North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration, 1911	9	17
A Note on my Interview with Joseph P. Tumulty on October 3, 1919 and on his Charge that I Sought to Oust President Wilson from Office, 1921	9	18
Note on Relation of Society to Labor, 1913	9	19
Notes on a Political Platform, 1924	9	20
Notes on Sovereignty in a State, 1907	9	21
Old Testament [Notes], 1912	9	22
One Hundred and Forty Years of British Canada, 1759 to 1899, 1927	10	1
Our War with Austria-Hungary, 1917	10	2
Pan-Americanism, 1915	10	3
Peace and Prussianism, 1917	10	4
The Policy of the United States in Regard to the Rights of Domiciled Aliens, n.d.	10	5
Political Clubs of the French Revolution, 1927	10	6
The Power of Democracy, 1919	10	7
Primitive Government, 1910	10	8
Principles, Platforms and Primaries, 1924	10	9
The Problem of Reduction of Naval Armaments, 1925	10	10
A Proletarian Dictatorship, 1925	10	11
Prussianism, 1918	10	12
Prussia's War and America's Peace, 1918	10	13

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-19 ... (Continued)

A Ramble Among English Words, n.d.	10	14
Real Boys, n.d.	10	15
Reforms, n.d.	10	16
The Relation of International Law to Fundamental Rights, 1919	10	17
The Relation of Spirit, Mind, and Matter, 1928	10	18
Remarks at a Luncheon to the American-Mexican Joint Commission, 1916	10	19
Remarks for Pan-American Thanksgiving Luncheon, 1916	10	20
Remarks Made at Dinner of the Gridiron Club, 1915	10	21
The Renaissance and its Relation to the Protestant Reformation, 1927	10	22
Response to the Toast "the President of the United States" at the Pan-American Celebration, 1915	10	23
Restriction of the Traffic in Arms, n.d.	10	24
Revision of the Rules of Naval War, 1928	10	25
The Revolt of Youth Against Social Restraints, 1928	10	26
Robespierre, 1927	10	27
Roman Social Life Under the Early Emperors, 1927	10	28
Scraps, 1918-1920	10	29
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Seal Farming in Bering Sea, 1909	11	2
The Search After Knowledge: An Impressionist's Phantasy of the Human Impulse to Know the Secrets of Nature, n.d.	11	3
A Second Series of Weekly Thoughts, n.d.	11	4
A Series of Articles Written for and Published by <i>La Prensa</i> of Buenos Aires, 1924-1925	11	5
Social Life During the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1927	11	6

Series 3: Writings and Speeches, 1905-19 ... (Continued)

Social Life Under the Early Plantagenet Kings, 1927	11	7
Social Life Under the Stuart Kings, 1927	11	8
Some Legal Questions of the Peace Conference, 1919	11	9
Specialization and Progress, 1914	11	10
The Spirit of the Coming Era, 1918	11	11
Thomas Jefferson: The American Apostle of Individualism, 1927	11	12
A Thought for Every Week in the Year, 1928	11	13
To a Coin, 1928	11	14
To a Pen, 1928	11	15
A Unique International Problem, 1917	11	16
The Universe and Man, 1911	11	17
The Universe, the Earth, and Man, 1928	11	18
Untitled Material, 1914-1918	11	19
Untitled Material, n.d.	11	20
The Vastness of the Universe, 1909	11	21
Viereck's Interview with the Ex-Kaiser, 1925	11	22
A War of Self-Defense, 1917	11	23
Warwick and Kenilworth, 1927	11	24
The Washington Conference and the Future, 1922	11	25
Zoroastrianism and Judaism, 1927	11	26

Series 4: Diaries, 1908-1928

Series Description

Series 4: Diaries, is a further expression of Lansing's predilection for the written word. The first of them is distinct in that its entries follow one another at irregular intervals and, frequently, assume a retrospective character. It also favors full sentences and, partly for this reason, has a narrative quality the

Series 4: Diaries, 1908-1928 ... (Continued)

others lack. While diaries do not exist for the period coincident with Lansing's tenure as Secretary of State, they supplement, albeit in a somewhat skeletal form, the otherwise fragmentary record of his legal activities before and after his years in the public eye. The diary for 1908-1910, for example, refers extensively to the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration in which Lansing appeared on behalf of the United States. While the entries in the other diaries are considerably terser, they clearly establish the pattern of Lansing's life between 1921 and 1928. His days were active; his professional and social engagements many. Although he was no longer Secretary of State, it is evident from the nature of his work and the circles in which he moved that he remained very much a part of his former world. His appetite for reading and, in summer, fishing are also illustrated by his diaries.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Diary, 1908-1910	11	27
Diary, 1921	12	1
Diary, 1922	12	2
Diary, 1923	12	3
Diary, 1924	12	4
Diary, 1925	12	5
Diary, 1926	13	1
Diary, 1927	13	2
Diary, 1928	13	3

Series 5: Sketches, 1919

Series Description

Series 5: Sketches, consists of a collection of fifty-eight pencil drawings of individuals whom Lansing encountered at the peace conference. Drawn in all but two instances on blank memoranda of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, they attest to the pleasure he derived from sketching and, quite possibly, to the tedium of the proceedings. Most of his sketches are unidentified. Among those that bear a name can be found the likenesses of Arthur James Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, in a characteristic doze; Tasker Howard Bliss, a fellow member of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, and Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
58 Sketches of personalities at the peace conference in Paris, 1919	13	4

Series 6: Photographs, n.d. ... (Continued)

Series 6: Photographs, n.d.

Series Description

Series 6: Photographs, consists of seven black and white photographs of varying size. The four relating to Tsingtao, China should be considered in the context of the controversy which arose over the fate of the Shantung Peninsula of which it was a part. The former German concession had been seized by Japan in 1914, and, at the peace conference, Japan's claims in this area were accepted at the expense of China's, much to the dismay of Lansing and his colleagues. The inscription which accompanies the photograph of Wilson, "To my trusted friend, Robert Lansing, with the warmest good wishes," is ironic in light of the terms on which the two men parted.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>
Autographed photograph of Georges Clemenceau (3.75 × 5.25), n.d.	13	5
Photograph of Robert Lansing (6.5 × 9), n.d.	13	6
Four photographs taken in and around Tsingtao, China (3 × 4), n.d.	13	7
Autographed photograph of Woodrow Wilson (6 × 9), n.d.	13	8