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Nicholas Murray Butler football correspondence 13791984

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University. Archives
Title:	Nicholas Murray Butler football correspondence
ID:	13791984
ID:	UA#0305
Date [inclusive]:	1905-1907
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet 1 half-size document box
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Nicholas Murray Butler football correspondence; Box and Folder (if known); University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Historical Note

According to University President Nicholas Murray Butler, football had "become an academic nuisance because of its interference with academic work and an academic danger because of the moral and physical ills that follow in its train." Without proper rules in place, the game was considered "brutal and abominable." On November 1905, the University Committee on Student Organizations voted to ban intercollegiate football at Columbia. Other colleges and universities similarly discontinued the sport following a season of repeated injuries and deaths. Henry Mitchell McCracken of New York University called a meeting in December 1905 to initiate changes in the rules for playing football. This meeting resulted in the formation of the Intercollegiate Athletic Association in 1906, which became the NCAA in 1910. After a 10-year ban, Columbia rejoined intercollegiate football in 1915.

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Summary

This collection contains correspondence received by Columbia University President Nicholas Murray Butler regarding the banning of football at Columbia in 1905.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

File created. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration.
One oversized item moved from original box to Flat Files Box 18 2019-05-04 2019-05-20
2020-02-06

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located onsite.

Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Provenance and Acquisition

Although presidential correspondence is normally kept in Central Files (or Office of the President Records), Frank D. Fackenthal, then University Secretary, recognizing their historical value, pulled this set of letters from the main collection and transferred them to the Columbiana Collection in 1920. The letters were transferred from the Rare Book and Manuscript Library to the University Archives in 1997.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Marilyn H. Pettit in September 2002. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in April 2019.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Football
- Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947
- Columbia University -- Football

Collection Inventory

Series I. Football letters, 1905-1907

Title/Description	Instances	
Football letters, 1905-1907	box 1	folder 1-2
"ABOLISHED!" Issue of Spectator, December 21, 1905	flatbox 18	folder 13
Columbia Football Association, 1905	box 1	folder 3

Scope and Contents

(In addition to the Columbia University Football Association materials (disbanded after the ban), this folder includes an invitation to the December 1905 meeting of the Conference of Twelve Colleges (to revise intercollegiate football rules) and a copy of the Columbia student newspaper, *Spectator*, from November 29, 1905 with the headline "Football Abolished.")

Copies of original folders, undated	box 1	folder 4
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Scope and Contents

(This folder contains copies of the folders created by the RBML staff when the letters were filed individually. These copies serve as a name index for the collection.)

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