



## Charles Austin Beard collection14325838

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### Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor  
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127  
535 W. 114th St.  
New York, NY 10027  
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Fax Number: (212) 854-1365  
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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator - com:</b>	Beard, Miriam, 1901-1983
<b>Creator - com:</b>	Beard, William
<b>Title:</b>	Charles Austin Beard collection
<b>ID:</b>	14325838
<b>ID:</b>	MS#1958
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1911-1976
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3 linear feet 7 document boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Charles Austin Beard Collection; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Charles Austin Beard (November 27, 1874 – September 1, 1948) was a leading American historian and progressive social thinker during the first half of the 20th century. He was a history professor at Columbia University but resigned in 1917 over what he considered the violation of civil liberties in the removal of pacifist Professors Dana and Cattell. Together with his wife, Mary Ritter, he was involved in the founding the New School for Social Research.

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## Biographical / Historical

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In works such as *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* (1913) and *Economic Origins of Jeffersonian Democracy* (1915), he stressed the part played by economic self interest in the development of American institutions and history. With his wife, Mary Ritter Beard, he authored the classic text book, *The Rise of American Civilization* (1927).

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## Scope and Contents

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A significant and sizeable archive of primary materials relating to the career of Charles A. Beard, compiled in the 1970s by Miriam (Beard) Vagts and William Beard. The collection includes more than 300 original letters, manuscripts, and printed material.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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

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URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is located on site.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchase, 2018.

## Conditions Governing Use

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Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact [rbml@columbia.edu](mailto:rbml@columbia.edu) for more information.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Constitutional history -- United States
- Historians -- United States -- 20th century
- Economic history
- Academic freedom
- Progressivism (United States politics)
- Historiography
- Social scientists
- Beard, Charles A (Charles Austin), 1874-1948
- Beard, Mary Ritter, 1876-1958
- Stone, Harlan Fiske, 1872-1946
- Brandeis, Louis Dembitz, 1856-1941
- Black, Hugo LaFayette, 1886-1971
- Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965
- Roosevelt, Franklin D (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945
- Lindbergh, Charles A. (Charles Augustus), 1902-1974
- Berle, A. A (Adolf Augustus), 1866-1960
- Bowen, Catherine Drinker, 1897-1973
- Brooks, Van Wyck, 1886-1963
- Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947
- Commager, Henry Steele, 1902-1998
- Coudert, Frederic R (Frederic René), 1871-1955
- Croce, Benedetto, 1866-1952
- Cross, Wilbur L (Wilbur Lucius), 1862-1948
- Durant, Will, 1885-1981

- Hearst, William Randolph, 1863-1951
- Lodge, Henry Cabot, Jr., 1902-1985
- Mencken, H. L. (Henry Louis), 1880-1956
- Rogers, Lindsay, 1891-1970
- Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968

## Collection Inventory

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### Series I: Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
A:		
Alfred A Knopf Inc., 4 December 1944	box 1	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. Henry Seidel Cancy)		
Amery, L. S., 3 January 1955	box 1	folder 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. U.S. economic policy post WWII)		
B:		
Baldwin, Hanson W. (NY Times Military Editor), 9 April 1946	box 1	folder 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. Vagts' "Landing Operations")		
Barnes, Harry Elmer, 12 August 1946-3 July 1948	box 1	folder 4
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. Roosevelt and WWII)		
Barton, Bruce, 8 May 1945	box 1	folder 5
Baruch, Bernard M., 11 & 14 May 1927	box 1	folder 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. profits made in war)		
Bayley, W. C., 5 November 1917	box 1	folder 7

**Scope and Contents**

(Re. teaching American history in elementary schools)

Beard, Charles A. to various recipients, 1935-1945	box 1	folder 29
Beard, Daniel Carter (Boy Scouts of America), 26 October & 23 November 1938	box 1	folder 8
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. list of early Americans responsible for molding American thought)		
Beard, Jack to Miriam Vagts, 27 July 1970	box 1	folder 9
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Re. his mother and flying his plane in 1933)		
Beard, William to Miriam Vagts, 1970-1978	box 1	folder 10
Becker, Carl, 1938-1943	box 1	folder 11
Bemis, Samuel Flagg, 28 May 1947	box 1	folder 12
Benton, Elbert J., 30 October & November 5 1917	box 1	folder 13
Berger, Doris ( <i>US Week</i> ), 25 February 1941	box 1	folder 14
Berle, Adolf Augustus, Jr., 28 September 1938	box 3	folder 39
Beveridge, Albert J., 10 October 1917	box 1	folder 15
Black, Hugo L. ( <i>Justice</i> ), 7 January 1942-18 November 1943	box 1	folder 16
Bone, Homer T. ( <i>US Senate</i> ), April 1938	box 1	folder 17
Borah, William E. ( <i>US Senate</i> ), 16 February 1938	box 1	folder 18
Borchard, Edwin M. ( <i>Yale Law</i> ), 1 March 1938-3 May 1945	box 1	folder 19
Bowen, Catherine Drinker, 19 April 1944 & 16 October 1970	box 1	folder 20
Bowman, Isaiah (Johns Hopkins), 31 May 1940-20 May 1941	box 1	folder 21
Boyd, Julian P. (Librarian, Princeton), 31 January -1 July 1948	box 1	folder 22
Brandeis, Louis (Supreme Court), 16 March 1934	box 1	folder 23
Brecht, Arlold to Dr. Vagts, 11 November 1968	box 1	folder 24

**Scope and Contents**

(In German)

Brodney, Spencer, 17 February 1936-22 August 1944	box 1	folder 25
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Roosevelt)		
Brooks, Robert C. (American Political Science Association), 1917	box 1	folder 26
Brooks, Van Wyck, 12 February 1947	box 1	folder 27
Bruncken, Ernest (Library of Congress), May 1913	box 1	folder 28
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 18 February 1913-2 May 1944	box 2	folder 1
Butterfield, Victo L. (Wesleyan University), 11 May 1945	box 2	folder 2
Byrns, Joseph W., 20 & 26 August 1946	box 2	folder 3
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Cordell Hull)		
Byrnes, James F., 24 February 1947	box 2	folder 4
C:		
Capper, Arthur (US Senate), 25 February 1941	box 2	folder 5
Case, Francis (Congress), 11 October 1943	box 2	folder 6
Castle, William R., 11-21 January 1946	box 2	folder 7
Castle, William R., 25 January 1946	box 2	folder 8
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(with his revised "Note to Chapter VI" of Beard's manuscript)		
Chandler, Edward H. (the Twentieth Century Club), 23 October 1917	box 2	folder 9
Chantland, William T. (Federal Trade Commission), 23 January 1930	box 2	folder 10
Clark, Tom C. (Attorney General), 14 July 1947	box 2	folder 11
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. definition of "subversive")		
Clark, William P., 14 December 1925	box 2	folder 12

**Scope and Contents**

(re. "Economics Origins of Jeffersonian Democracy")

Coblentz, E. D., 31 May 1945	box 2	folder 13
Director of Naval School (Columbia University), 7 June 1944	box 2	folder 14
Commager, Henry Steele, 13 & 19 September 1937	box 2	folder 15
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. "Constitutional History" by Andrew C. McLaughlin)		
Cook, Jeffrey W. to Miriam Vagts, 23 December 1970	box 2	folder 16
Coudert, Frederic R., 28 April 1913	box 2	folder 17
Counts, Geroge S. (Southern Illinois University) to Miriam Vagts, 11 May - 5 June 1970	box 2	folder 18
Crane, Robert T., 3 February 1941	box 2	folder 19
Croce, Benedetto, 24 June 1933 & 12 May 1947	box 2	folder 20
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(in Italian)		
Cross, Wilbur L. (CT Governor), 23 August 1933 - 20 April 1936	box 2	folder 21
Cunningham, Owen, 29 April 1948	box 2	folder 22
Curran, Fred	box 2	folder 23
Cushman, Robert E., 10 April 1945	box 2	folder 24
Cutting, Bronson M. (US Senate), 8 January 1930	box 2	folder 25
D:		
Daniels, Josephus (Ambassador to Mexico), 21 September 1934	box 2	folder 26
Davidson, Eugene (Yale University Press), 8 May 1939	box 2	folder 27
Dept. of History. State University of Iowa, 14 December 1917	box 2	folder 28
Dewey, John, 17 December 1917	box 2	folder 29
Dickinson, John, 6 March 1931	box 2	folder 30
Dooman, Eugene H., 18 May & 22 June 1948	box 2	folder 31
Duffus, R.L. (NY Times), 8 June 1939	box 2	folder 32
Durant, Will, 14 October 1917	box 2	folder 33

Dykstra, C.A. (University of Wisconsin), 7 December 1942	box 2	folder 34
E:		
Ely, Robert Erskine (League for Political Education), 25 October 1917	box 2	folder 35
Engelking, L.L. ( <i>NY Herald Tribune</i> ), 1944	box 2	folder 36
Estelle, Larry to Mary Beard, 20 October 1954	box 2	folder 37
F:		
Fackenthal, Frank D. (C.U. Provost), 15 March & 27 April 1944	box 3	folder 1
Farley, James A. (CocaCola Chairman of the Board), 20 June 1945-4 August 1948	box 3	folder 2
Farrand, Max (Yale University), 2 May 1913	box 3	folder 3
Fay, Sidney Bradshaw (Smith College), 9 November 1928	box 3	folder 4
Fenton, Frank P. (American Federation of Labor), 27 January 1948	box 3	folder 5
Ferguson, Homer (US Senate), 11 October 1947	box 3	folder 6
Flack, Horace E., 4 November 1911	box 3	folder 7
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re fourteenth ammendment)		
Fosdick, Harry Emerson (Riverside Church), 10 April 1942	box 3	folder 8
Fosdick, Raymond B., 8 February 1916	box 3	folder 9
Frank, John P., 28 August 1944 & 25 June n.y.	box 3	folder 10
Frankfurter, Felix, 30 April 1943 & 21 January 1948	box 3	folder 11
Freedman, I, 13 October 1917	box 3	folder 12
G:		
Galloway, George B., 21 May 1947	box 3	folder 13
Goodknow, Frank J. (Johns Hopkins)	box 3	folder 14
Galton, Lawrence N., 6 March 1944	box 3	folder 15
Graham, Howard Jay, 29 January 1939	box 3	folder 16
Greenfield, Kent Roberts, 31 May 1940	box 3	folder 17
H:		
Harvard Law, 5 May 1931	box 3	folder 18

**Scope and Contents**

(re. "10 Milestones in the History of Privale Law")

Hawkes, Mary (C.U. Dean), 4 January 1918	box 3	folder 19
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. "Fraser incident")		
Hearst, William Randolph to E. D. Coblentz, 21 January 1932	box 3	folder 20
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. "Politics shouldn't be a Shell Game") (Typed copy)		
Hagemann, Werner (New School), 19 April-18 November 1934	box 3	folder 21
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. his "Entlarvte Geschichte")		
Hoag, G. C. (Proportional Representation League), 24 October 1917	box 3	folder 22
Hughes, Rupert, 8 March 1937	box 3	folder 23
J:		
Johns Hopkins University telegram to Senator Walter George, 5 February 1941	box 3	folder 24
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Lend-lease Bill; sent to Beard by Harold Cherniss)		
K:		
King, Judson (National Popular Government League), 9 & 11 October 1917	box 3	folder 25
Krock, Arthur (NY Times), 8 January 1941	box 3	folder 26
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Beard's war with Japan prediction in 1933)		
L:		
L.K.7., 23 November 1921	box 3	folder 27
Lindberg, Charles A., 20 March 1945-21 August 1948	box 3	folder 28

**Scope and Contents**

(typed copy)

Lodge, Henry Cabot, Jr., 3 July 1947	box 3	folder 29
M:		
Macfarland, Charles S., 14 May 1940	box 3	folder 30
March, Alton, 15 October 1917	box 3	folder 31
Mencken, H. L., 20 May 1939	box 3	folder 32
O:		
O'Rourke, Grace (for Dr. Bradley), 20 August 1940	box 3	folder 33
P:		
Palmer, Paul ( <i>The American Mercury</i> ), 12 May 1927	box 3	folder 34
Patterson, J. M. ( <i>The News</i> ), 16 May 1945	box 3	folder 35
Phelps, William Lyon (Yale University), 21 November 1935	box 3	folder 36
Pratt, Frances (Foreign Policy Association), 29 August 1934	box 3	folder 37
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Includes copies of letters from Rudolph Katz to Alfred Vagts)		
Putman, James, 4 December 1932	box 3	folder 38
R:		
R.W.M. (Assistant Secretary of State), 9 January 1936	box 3	folder 39
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission)		
Ratcliffe, Richard P. to Miriam Vagts, 3 August 1973	box 3	folder 40
Ritter, Halsted L., 24 October 1917	box 3	folder 41
Rogers, Lindsay, 8 May n.y.	box 3	folder 42
Rodgers, J. Woowall (American and Planning and Civic Association), 10 February 1948	box 3	folder 43
Roosevelt, Franklin, 15 January 1936	box 3	folder 44
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission)		
Russell, H. D., 9 August 1947	box 3	folder 45

## S:

S__ and A. A. Young (War Trade Board), 22 September - 6 November 1917	box 4	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(re. Academic Freedom in Time of War)		
Sinclair, Upton, 7 August 1939	box 4	folder 2
Smith, G. Herbert (willamette University), 21 May 1943	box 4	folder 3
Stangeland (NJ State Chamber of Commerce), 21 September & 9 October 1917	box 4	folder 4
Seppel, F. P. (War Department), 23 & 25 October 1917	box 4	folder 5
Stewart G. W. (State University of Iowa), 26 November 1917	box 4	folder 6
Stone, Harlan Fisk (Supreme Court), 13 March 1934 - 13 November 1945	box 4	folder 7
Sullivan, Mark ( <i>Collier's</i> ), 17 October 1917	box 4	folder 8
Symonds, Maurice to J. M. Peterson, 16 May 1945	box 4	folder 9
T:		
Taylor, Helen K., 27 March 1944	box 4	folder 10
Triplett, Norman, 11 October 1917	box 4	folder 13
V:		
Vagts, Miriam to various, 25 July 1970 - 8 January 1971	box 4	folder 11
W:		
Witham, W. Tasker, 31 August 1945	box 4	folder 12
Wildman, Murray Shipley, 26 November 1917	box 4	folder 14
Works, John D. (US Senate), 5 May 1913	box 4	folder 15
Y:		
Yale University Press to "Uncle Charlie", 29 July 1948	box 4	folder 22

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## Series II: Manuscripts

Title/Description	Instances	
By Beard:		
"The Big Railway Wreck" by Charles A. Beard	box 4	folder 18

**Scope and Contents**

(Photocopy from Hoover Institute)

"American Nationalism the Foe of Peace and Prosperity for the Whole World", 1944	box 6	folder 1
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(A report on the formula for The Reader's Digest)		
"An Unforgettable Woman"	box 6	folder 2
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(About Beard's grandmother, Sarah Payne)		
"Report to Governor Cross on Milk Situation", 29 August 1933	box 6	folder 3
Lectures on "The Scope of Politics" at The Bureau of Municipal Research, 1918	box 6	folder 4
"Note on Pearl Harbor"	box 6	folder 9
Columbia Resignation:		
"Columbia Controversy" manuscript material	box 4	folder 21
Essay by Beard on the Columbia University and the Great War	box 6	folder 8
Columbia University Special Committee on Subversive Beliefs or Disloyalty, 1917	box 6	folder 6
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Includes manuscripts, reports, and photocopies)		
"Statement of Facts in the Matter of the Committee of Education of the Board of Education of trustees of Columbia University and professor Charles A. Beard"	box 6	folder 7
Research Photocopies:		
Photocopies of Raymond Moley correspondence from the Hoover Institute Archives, 1934-1936	box 4	folder 16
"Debts and Credits: An Economic Balance Sheet Drawn Up to Meet Political Necessities" by W. Y. Elliott	box 4	folder 17
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Photocopy from Hoover Institute)		
Notes as to Military Record of Colnel Edward David	box 4	folder 19

**Scope and Contents**

(Photocopy from Hoover Institute)

Photocopies of correspondence from Harvard and other institutions	box 4	folder 20
Biography of Charles A. Beard:		
Original manuscripts (ca 1000pp)	box 5	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Includes notes, drafts of chapters, photocopies, and other archival materials compiled for Vagts's biography of C.A.B. The manuscript appears to be fragmentary, with only a few chapters having proceeded to the finished stage. Materials arranged as received, many pages clearly out of sequence; completeness impossible to gauge but still a substantial archive of primary biographical material relating to Beard. )		
Meetings:		
Meeting of the Commission on Direction American Historical Association Investigation of the Social Studies in the Schools, 7-8 May 1931	box 6	folder 5

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Title/Description	Instances
"What Can Government Do To Prevent and Relieve Unemployment?" by Robert F. Wagner and Charles A Beard. University of Chicago Press, 1932	box 7
"Issues of Foreign Policy" by Charles A. Beard. University of Chicago Press, 1932	box 7
"Issues of Domestic Policy" by Charles A. Beard. University of Chicago Press, 1932	box 7
"The Idea of Let Us Alone" by Charles A. Beard. Virginia Quarterly Review, 1939	box 7
"Giddy Minds and Foreign Quarrels" by Charles A. Beard. Harpers Magazine, 1939	box 7
"Roosevelt's Place in History" by Charles A. Beard. <i>Events</i> , February 1938	box 7
"A Memorandum on Social Philosophy" by Charles A. Beard. <i>Journal of Social Philosophy</i> , October 1939	box 7

"Wirtschaft und Regierung den Vereinigten Staaten" by Charles A. Beard	box 7	
"Limitations to the Application of Social Science in Recent Social Trends by Charles A. Beard. <i>Social Forces</i> , May 1933	box 7	
"Time, Technology, and the Creative Spirit in Political Science" Edited by Charles A. Beard, 1927	box 7	
"The Individual and the Group in Marxist Theory" by John D. Lewis, October 1936	box 7	
"The Struggle against the Historical Blackout" by Harry Elmer Barnes	box 7	
<b>Scope and Contents</b>		
(Includes the poem "Tribute to Charles Austin Beard" by Eugene Davidson)		
"The Predicament of History" by Eugen Rosenstock-Hussy, February 1935	box 7	
"Causes of Revolution" by Louis Gottschalk, July 1944	box 7	
"Social Change v. The Constitution" by Charles A. Beard, July 1936	box 7	
<i>AHA Newsletter</i> , June 1970	box 7	
"Charles Beard, Conneticut Farmer" by Albert Vagts in <i>CLIO</i> , 1976	box 7	
"Charles A. Beard's Recollections of Henry County, Indiana" Edited by Clifton J. Phillips, March 1959	box 7	
<i>Ritter Family - With Sketch of Eli Foster Ritter</i>	box 7	
"The Relativity of History" by C. Vincent Confer in <i>The Hellenist</i> , May 1934	box 7	
Clippings and articles (ca. 200 items)	box 7	
Photographs:		
Photograph of Frances Perkins giving a speech	box 6	folder 10
Photograph of an unidentified young boy	box 6	folder 10
Books:		
<i>Charles A. Beard: An Appraisal</i> . Edited by Howard K. Beale. University of Kentucky Press, 1954	box 7	

**Scope and Contents**

(The copy owned by Mary Beard and marked by her.  
With a photograph of Charles A. Beard inside the  
front cover)

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*Charles A. Beard: An Appraisal.* Edited by Howard K. Beale. University of Kentucky Press, 1954 box 7

**Scope and Contents**

(Inscribe to Mary Beard by Howard K. Beale, 8 April  
1954)

**Scope and Contents**

(Inscribed to Eileen O'Daniel Eddy by Mary Ritter  
Beard, 31 October 1954)

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