



# ArchivesSpace

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## James Truslow Adams papers 4078384

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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](mailto:rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu)  
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical sketch .....	3
Scope and Content .....	5
Arrangement .....	6
Administrative Information .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	8
Collection Inventory .....	8
Series I: Cataloged Correspondence .....	8
Series II: Arranged Correspondence .....	12
Series III: Manuscripts .....	12
Series IV: Ephemera and Photographs .....	13
Series V: Scrapbooks and Newspapers .....	13
Series VI: Oversized Scrapbooks .....	13
Series VII: Card File .....	14

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
<b>Creator:</b>	Adams, James Truslow, 1878-1949
<b>Title:</b>	James Truslow Adams papers
<b>ID:</b>	4078384
<b>ID:</b>	MS#0008
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1918-1949
<b>Physical Description:</b>	15 linear feet 24 document boxes; 1 oversize folder; 1 tube box
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); James Truslow Adams Papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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James Truslow Adams was successful businessman who became a celebrated historian, writing chiefly about the history of early New England.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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In 1912, having worked for twelve years as a businessman in a New York brokerage house, Adams moved to Bridgehampton, L.I., and began writing. His first books--"Memorials of Old Bridgehampton" (1916) and "History of the Town of Southampton" (1918)--established him as

a credible historian. During World War I he was appointed the Paris Peace Conference as part of the American delegation.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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After the war Adams began researching and writing on the history of New England, which resulted in his epic three-volume series comprising "The Founding of New England", which was published in 1921, and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1922; "Revolutionary New England", 1691-1776, which was published in 1923 and became a bestseller; and "New England in the Republic, 1776-1850", which was published in 1926.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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Adams wrote biographical sketches of famous historians for the "Dictionary of American Biography". In 1929 Adams moved to London and began working for magazines. While in London he published two collections of essays: "Our Business Civilization: Some Aspects of American Culture" and "The Tempo of Modern Life", as well as his history of the Adams family "The Adams Family", was a financial success.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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In his "The Epic of America", published in 1933, Adams attempted to address the historic development and philosophic vision of America. It was in this book that Adams coined the term "The American Dream" which he defined as "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical sketch

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In due course, Adams gave up writing in favor of editing, working on such titles as the "Dictionary of American History", the "Atlas of American History", and the "Album of American History". In 1968, Allan Nevins published his biography of Adams: "James Truslow Adams: Historian of the American Dream".

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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The collection is composed of the correspondence files of the James Truslow Adams. The majority of the letters were written to Adams by various contemporary historians, educators, public figures, business associates, friends and family. The material ranges in date from 1918-1949. The letters are concerned with the following: Adams' literary activities and the publication of his writings; contemporary politics; personal and business affairs; requests and solicitations from individuals and groups for support, etc.; scholarly and academic activities. While very few original letters sent by Adams are present, there exist margin notes in his own hand on incoming letters indicating the nature of his reply. Of special note are six volumes of mounted letters and clippings relating to President Roosevelt's plan to reorganize the United States Supreme Court. Adams was an opponent of the plan.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Content

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Included are a series of three hundred letters (photostat, carbon, typescript, etc.) written by Adams to friends and family during his service in World War I; also included are a carbon copy of Adams' "American Tragedy"; carbon and typescript of Adams' "American Family". Among his miscellaneous family documents is an extract from the Hearings before un-American Activities Committee, February 1948. 1,235 letters between himself and his publisher, Little Brown & Co., pertaining mainly to the publication of Adams' historical writings. Of special interest are the letters of Mr. Adams dated Feb. 5, 1932, Jan. 20, 1932, Nov. 4, 1931, Oct. 21, 1931, Oct. 11, 1931, Sept. 8, 1931, Dec. 10, 1929, May 11, 1929, Sept. 4, 1928, May 28, 1928, Oct. 2, 1927, July 13, 1927, May 12, 1926, and May 8, 1927 (in the 1926 file), which

contain Mr. Adams' comments on British political affairs and the economic crisis. Of interest is a letter dated June 10, 1923 on the teaching of history in secondary schools and the texts used. There is also one volume "Memorials of Old Bridgehampton" (1916), privately printed at Bridgehampton, Long Island.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in seven series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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

### Revision Description

File created. EAD created by PTL EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-26 2011-11-1 2019-05-20

### Restrictions on Access

The following boxes are shelved off-site: Boxes 5-24. You will need to request those boxes from the Rare Book & Manuscript Library at least three business days before using in our reading room.

### **Restrictions on Access**

The unpublished manuscript of "An American Family" is closed to all use except by J.T. Adams' family; others must have the written permission of his heirs.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. Permission to publish material from the collection must be requested from the Curator of Manuscripts, Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML). The RBML approves permission to publish that which it physically owns; the responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Papers: Source of acquisition--Adams, Mrs. James Truslow. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1953.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Additional papers: Source of acquisition--Yale University Libraries. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1980.

### **Ownership and Custodial History**

Gift of Mrs. J.T. Adams, 1953

Gift of Yale University Libraries, 1980

Gift of the estate of J.T. Adams, 1991

### **Processing Information**

Papers Processed BRC 03/--/80.

### **Processing Information**

Additional papers Processed BRC 1980.

### **Accruals**

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.

## Existence and Location of Copies

Royal Cortissoz and Pearl S. Buck letters on microfilm. We also have one positive reel and one negative reel of microfilm of the Correspondence with with Little Brown & Co., but not in the collection. Originals at Yale University Libraries.

## Processing Information

Processed by Michael Stone, December 2000.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Historians -- United States
- Judges -- Selection and appointment -- United States -- History -- 20th century
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives, American
- Historians
- Adams, James Truslow, 1878-1949
- Roosevelt, Franklin D (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945
- United States. Congress. House. Committee on Un-American Activities
- United States. Supreme Court
- Little, Brown and Company

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## Collection Inventory

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Series I: Cataloged Correspondence	
Title/Description	Instances
Adams, Henry - Adams, James Truslow	box 1
Amory, Cleveland	box 2
Arnall, Ellis	box 2
Arms, John Taylor	box 2
Aswell, Edward C.	box 2
Baldwin, Raymond E.	box 2
Barr, Stringfellow	box 2
Becker, Carl	box 2



Benet, Steven Vincent	box 2
Boni, Albert	box 2
Breasted, James Henry	box 2
Brooks, Van Wyck	box 2
Buck, Pearl	box 2
Burlingham, Charles C.	box 2
Butler, Nicholas Murray	box 2
Callender, Harold	box 2
Canby, Henry Seidel	box 2
Coker, Francis W.	box 2
Commager, Henry Steele	box 2
Cortissoz, Royal	box 2
Coudert, Fredric Rene	box 2
Cousins, Norman	box 2
Cross, Wilbur L.	box 2
Damrosch, Walter Johannes	box 2
Darrow, Whitney	box 2
Dashiell, Alfred S.	box 2
Dewey, John	box 2
Dewey, Thomas E.	box 2
duPont, Eugene E.	box 2
Erskine, John	box 2
Fadiman, Clifton	box 2
Finley, David	box 2
Ford, Worthington C.	box 2
Fox, Dixon Ryan	box 2
Freeman, Douglas Southall	box 2
Garland, Hamlin	box 2
Gibson, Charles Dana	box 2
Hagedorn, Herman	box 2
Hamilton, Clayton	box 2
Hampden, Walter	box 2

Hazlitt, Henry	box 2
Hirst, Francis W.	box 2
Hoover, Herbert	box 2
Hoover, J. Edgar	box 2
Howard, Sidney	box 2
Howe, M. A. DeWolfe	box 2
Howe, Mark Antony	box 2
Howe, Will D.	box 3
Hull, Cordel	box 3
Johnson, Robert Underwood	box 3
Jusserland, Jean Jules	box 3
Keller, Helen	box 3
Kent, Henry Watson	box 3
Kingsly, Charles	box 3
LaFarge, Oliver	box 3
LaGuardia, Fiorello H.	box 3
Landon, Alf M.	box 3
Lamont, Thomas W.	box 3
Leach, Henry Goddard	box 3
Liddell Hart, Sir Basil Henry	box 3
Lippman, Walter	box 3
Lord, Edward	box 3
Loveman, Amy	box 3
McAfee, Helen	box 3
McIntyre, Alfred	box 3
MacLeish, Archibald	box 3
Manship, Paul	box 3
Merritt, Carol B.	box 3
Millikan, Robert Andrews	box 3
Moore, Charles	box 3
Morison, Samuel Eliot	box 3
Muirhead, J. F.	box 3

Murry, J. Middleton	box 3
Muzzey, David S.	box 3
Nathan, Robert	box 4
Nevins, Allan	box 4
Nixon, Richard M.	box 4
Palmer, Paul	box 4
Pearson, Edmund	box 4
Perkins, Maxwell E.	box 4
Phelps, William Lyon	box 4
Pollock, Channing	box 4
Post, Emily (Mrs. Price)	box 4
Pringle, Henry Fowles	box 4
Putnam, Herbert	box 4
Roosevelt, Franklin Delano	box 4
Roosevelt, Theodore, Jr.	box 4
Scribner, Charles	box 4
Sedgwick, Ellery	box 4
Sinclair, Upton	box 4
Sloan, Alfred Pritchard, Jr.	box 4
Smuts, Jan Christian	box 4
Speicher, Eugene	box 4
Stout, Rex	box 4
Stowe, Lyman Beecher	box 4
Sullivan, Mark	box 4
Swope, Gerard	box 4
Tarkington, Booth	box 4
Thompson, Dorothy	box 4
Tinker, Chauncey Brewster	box 4
Train, Arthur	box 4
Untermeyer, Louis	box 4
Vanderbilt, Harold Stirling	box 4
Van Doren, Carl	box 4

Van Doren, Mark	box 4
van Loon, Hendrik Willem	box 4
Weeks, Edward	box 4
Wheelock, John Hall	box 4
White, William Allen	box 4
Young, Owen D.	box 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Arranged Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances
Letters A-B	box 5
Letters C-E	box 6
Letters F-J	box 7
Letters K-O	box 8
Letters P-S	box 9
Letters T-Z and unidentified fragments	box 10
Letters of Condolence A-Z	box 11
Copies of letters to and from J.T. Adams	box 12
Correspondence concerning the collection	box 13
Correspondence with Irving Trust, 1930-1948	box 14

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series III: Manuscripts

Title/Description	Instances
"An American Family". Typed manuscript. Note: restricted and unpublished	box 15
"An American Family". Typed manuscript (draft), with handwritten revisions pp. 76-106.	box 15
"America's Tragedy". Typed manuscript (unpublished).	box 15
Memorials of Old Bridgehampton. 1 volume, with handwritten revisions.	box 15
"Empire on the Seven Seas"	box 16
Other manuscripts	box 16

Miscellaneous manuscripts and notes	box 16
Copy of <i>The American</i> with letters by the author tipped in	box 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

#### Series IV: Ephemera and Photographs

Title/Description	Instances
Awards and Degrees	box 17
Juvenilia	box 17
Memorabilia	box 17
Miscellaneous	box 17
Miscellaneous family documents	box 17
Pamphlets	box 17
Photographs	box 17

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

#### Series V: Scrapbooks and Newspapers

Title/Description	Instances
Scrapbooks on the Supreme Court Number 1-4, 1932 and 1937, 1932, 1937	box 18-19
Newspaper and magazine clippings by and about J.T. Adams	box 20
Newspaper and magazine clippings by and about J.T. Adams	box 21
Four scrapbooks of news clippings; articles by and about J.T. Adams,, 1928-1930	box 22
MA Historical Society. Election as a correspondeng member	tubebox 25
Michelena Family Genealogy, 1849	tubebox 25

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

#### Series VI: Oversized Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances
Articles by and about J. T. Adams with handwritten notes in margins. 2 volumes	box 22

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New York Times: World's Fair supplement (sect. 8) ; article by J.T.A., 3/5/39	box 22
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Awards and degrees; watercolor. (1 Folder)	box 22
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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series VII: Card File

Title/Description	Instances
Nevins, Allen. Index to the papers prepared for and used by Allen Nevins for his biography of James Truslow Adams, 1968 [4 card file Boxes], 1968	box 23-24

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)