



ArchivesSpace

a community served by  Lyrasis

William J. Donovan papers 4078705

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

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>

Table of Contents

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Summary Information | 3 |
| Biographical / Historical | 3 |
| Summary | 3 |
| Administrative Information | 4 |
| Related Materials | 5 |
| Controlled Access Headings | 5 |
| Collection Inventory | 5 |
| Series I: Research Files | 5 |
| Series II: Card Files | 9 |

Summary Information

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Repository: | Rare Book and Manuscript Library |
| Creator: | Donovan, William J (William Joseph), 1883-1959 |
| Title: | William J. Donovan papers |
| ID: | 4078705 |
| ID: | MS#0355 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1775-1790 |
| Physical Description: | 32 linear feet 53 document boxes; 1 flat box; 5 record storage cartons |
| Language of the Material: | English . |

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William J. Donovan papers; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Lawyer, Major General in the U.S. Army.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

Typescript and photographic copies of records and research materials assembled by Donovan and relating to his study of the intelligence service during the American Revolution. The file of materials, carefully organized and fully documented, draws together information gleaned from various archives in England, Canada, France, and the Vatican.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

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
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

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

Revision Description

File created. Updated and container list added, converted from HTML finding aid. kws EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-06-26
2018-10-10 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Reproduction Note

Type of reproduction--Copies in part

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Reproductions may be made for research purposes. The RBML maintains ownership of the physical material only. Copyright remains with the creator and his/her heirs. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Donovan, Mrs. William. Method of acquisition--Gift; Date of acquisition--1960. Accession number--M-60.

Processing Information

Cataloged Christina Hilton Fenn 06/--/89.

Processed by RBML staff in 1960s; revised by Patrick Lawlor and Ben Heller 2006.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Additional William J. Donovan Papers are housed at the U.S. Army College Library, Carlisle, Pa. 17013.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783 -- Military intelligence
- Lawyers
- United States. Continental Army

Collection Inventory

Series I: Research Files

| Title/Description | Instances |
|-------------------|-----------|
|-------------------|-----------|

| | |
|--|--------|
| The Donovan Project Correspondence, memorandum and notes relating to the project (8 volumes) | box 1 |
| American Revolution Countries (1) Canada-France | box 2 |
| American Revolution Countries (2) Great Britain-Sweden | box 3 |
| American Revolution Countries (3) United States | box 4 |
| American Revolution Individuals (1) A-D | box 5 |
| American Revolution Individuals (1) E-G | box 6 |
| American Revolution Individuals (1) H-L | box 7 |
| American Revolution Individuals (1) M-S | box 8 |
| American Revolution Individuals (1) T-Z | box 9 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) Bancroft In binder | box 10 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) Boudinot In binder | box 10 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) De Kalb (1 binder) | box 10 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) Eden (1 binder) | box 10 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) LaFayette (1 binder) | box 10 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) Parsons (1 binder) | box 10 |
| American Revolution Individuals (6) Shelbourne (1 binder) | box 10 |
| American Revolution Subjects (1) A-L | box 11 |
| American Revolution Subjects (2) M-Z | box 12 |
| American Revolution--Miscellaneous binders | box 13 |
| Bibliographies – Miscellaneous | box 13 |
| Bibliographies – Ministere de la Guerre Archives | box 13 |
| Early agents (mostly French, some British) | box 13 |
| France. Early agents | box 13 |
| Memoranda – American Revolutionary Diaries – Bibliography | box 13 |
| Memoranda – The Intelligence Services of the American Revolution (1 binder) | box 14 |
| Durand--1 binder | box 14 |
| Moore--1 binder | box 14 |
| Greene--1 binder | box 14 |
| Williamson--1 binder | box 14 |
| United States--6 binders | box 14 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 1] 1765-1775 | |

William J. Donovan papers 4078705

| | |
|---|--------|
| | box 15 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 2] 1775/1776 | box 16 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 1 & 2] 1777 | box 17 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 3] 1777 | box 18 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 1 & 2] 1778 | box 19 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 3] 1778 | box 20 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 1 & 2] 1779 | box 21 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 3] 1779 | box 22 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 1 & 2] (c.1) 1780 | box 23 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 2] (c.2)-3 1780 | box 24 |
| The George Washington Papers -- Biographical research 1780 | box 25 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 1&2] (c.1) 1781 | box 26 |
| The George Washington Papers [v. 2] (c.2)-3 1781 | box 27 |
| The George Washington Papers (Including the Continental Congress Papers--North, South and General Topics 1782 | box 27 |
| The George Washington Papers (Including the Continental Congress Papers--Middle States) 1782 | box 28 |
| The George Washington Papers (List of Microfilms) 1783 | box 28 |
| The George Washington Papers (Library of Congress photostats) 1775-1778 | box 29 |
| The George Washington Papers (Library of Congress photostats) 1779-1782 | box 30 |
| The George Washington Papers (Library of Congress photostats) 1782/1783 | box 31 |
| The George Washington Papers (Library of Congress photostats) 2 reels | box 31 |
| British Intelligence--The Clinton Papers 1777-1780 | box 32 |
| British Intelligence--The Clinton Papers 1781/1782 | box 33 |
| British Intelligence--Original Secret Records of Private Daily Intelligence, AR Clinton H I 30 | box 33 |
| British Intelligence--Correspondence about Clinton Papers (Alan Brown) [List of Microfilms] 1774-1782 | box 33 |
| British Intelligence--The Haldimand papers 1778-1784 | box 34 |
| British Intelligence--The Haldimand Papers [photostats] | box 35 |
| British Intelligence--Wainwright Report, Pt. I A-D and Pt. II E-K | box 36 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| British Intelligence--Source material for British intelligence during the War for Independence | box 36 |
| British Intelligence--Extra copies of Index | box 36 |
| British Intelligence--Chronological three column schedule | box 37 |
| British Intelligence--Asquith Papers--Gage Report 1775 | box 37 |
| British Intelligence Outside--Gage Papers 1775/1776 | box 37 |
| British Intelligence--Foreign Office Papers (Table of contents included) 1782 | box 38 |
| France--British Administration Papers (Dowling Papers) Volume 1 1778/1782 | box 39 |
| France--British Administration Papers (Dowling Papers) Volume 2 1781 (January-March) | box 39 |
| France--British Administration Papers (Dowling Papers) Volume 3 1781 (April)-1782 (March) | box 40 |
| France--British Administration Papers (Dowling Papers) Volume 4 1782 (March-December) | box 41 |
| France--British Administration Papers (Dowling Papers) Volume 5 1780-1782 | box 41 |
| France--British Administration Papers 1759-1780 | box 42 |
| France--Colonial Office Papers 1780 (June-December) | box 42 |
| France--Foreign Office Papers (with table of contents) 1781 | box 42 |
| France--Ravage Report: Correspondence re. early agents & other French material Text and documents | box 43 |
| France--Ravage Report: Reference Tools I and II | box 44 |
| Vatican material--Correspondence on material | box 45 |
| Vatican material--Father Skehan & Mrs. Kuehn-Steinhausen | box 45 |
| Classified: A--General & historical material not specifically related to intelligence | box 46 |
| Classified: B--Specific subjects (not strictly intelligence) | box 47 |
| Classified: D--Middle ages | box 47 |
| Classified: E--Byzantine period (Far, Near and Middle East | box 48 |
| Classified: F--16th to 19th centuries | box 48 |
| Classified: G--Napoleon | box 48 |
| Classified: German & Austrian Espionage | box 49 |
| Classified: R--Specific countries 19th to early 20th century | box 50 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Classified: S--American History other than American Revolution | box 50 |
| Donovan--Antiquity | box 51 |
| Miscellaneous notes of William J. Donovan | box 52 |
| Miscellaneous photostats | box 53 |
| Photostats of ciphers used for secret service | box Flat Box 283 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II: Card Files

Scope and Contents

A series of 28 card file boxes in five record storage cartons.

| Title/Description | Instances |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Card File Box 1: Washington Papers 1780 A-U | box Card Files Box 1 |
| Card File Box 2: GW 1780 A-X. Washington Papers 1781-1784 A-L | box Card Files Box 1 carton 5 |
| Card File Box 3: Washington Papers 1781-1784 M-Z. 1778 A-E | box Card Files Box 1 carton 2 |
| Card File Box 4: Washington Papers 1778 F-W. GW 1778 A-G | box Card Files Box 1 |
| Card File Box 5: GW 1778 H-W Washington Papers 1779 A-M | box Card Files Box 1 |
| Card File Box 6: Washington Papers 1779 N-Y. American Revolution; Subject File G | box Card Files Box 1 |
| Card File Box 7: American Revolution Subject File H-Lee, Charles | box Card Files Box 1 |
| Card File Box 8: American Revolution Subject File Mc-M. GW Papers 1775-1776 | box Card Files Box 2 |
| Card File Box 9: GW 1776. Gage Papers 1763-75. Cornwallis 1780-81. Washington Papers 1777: Hancock | box Card Files Box 2 |
| Card File Box 10: Washington Papers 1777: Putnam. Subject Heading List A-B | box Card Files Box 2 |
| Card File Box 11: Subject Heading List C-R | box Card Files Box 2 |
| Card File Box 12: Subject Heading List S-Z. GW Papers Index 1775-1780 | box Card Files Box 2 |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Card File Box 13: Books kept elsewhere. Books missing. Spy bibliographies | box Card Files Box 2 |
| Card File Box 14: Spy bibliographies. A.R. Bibliographic Notes | box Card Files Box 2 |
| Card File Box 15: American Revolution Subject File A-C | box Card Files Box 3 |
| Card File Box 16: American Revolution Subject File D-F. Books at apartment title A-G | box Card Files Box 3 |
| Card File Box 17: Books at apartment title I-Z. Books in foreign languages | box Card Files Box 3 |
| Card File Box 18: Microfilms: GW Papers June-July 1777 | box Card Files Box 3 |
| Card File Box 19: Microfilms: GW Papers odds and ends June-Sept 1778 | box Card Files Box 3 |
| Card File Box 20: Microfilms: Continental Congress 1779 | box Card Files Box 4 |
| Card File Box 21: Microfilms: Gates Papers 1778 | box Card Files Box 4 |
| Card File Box 22: American Revolution Subject File N-S | box Card Files Box 4 |
| Card File Box 23: American Revolution Subject File T-Z. Books at apartment author file: American History | box Card Files Box 4 |
| Card File Box 24: Books at apartment author file: Current Affairs including WWII. | box Card Files Box 4 |
| Card File Box 25: Books at Office Master File: Foreign languages. Books at office master file: History including WWI. | box Card Files Box 5 |
| Card File Box 26: George Washington Papers 1782 F-Z. George Washington Papers 1782 A-Z, A-E. George Washington Papers 1783-84 A-Z. Source File A-G | box Card Files Box 5 |
| Card File Box 27: Source File H-Z. Master File (shelf list): Willett, I | box Card Files Box 5 |
| Card File Box 28: Master File (shelf list): Countries | box Card Files Box 5 |

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)