



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

Departmental Reports to the President6947874

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 13, 2025.

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>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	3
Summary	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Collection Inventory	6
Series I. Reports to President Seth Low	6
Series II. Reports to President Nicholas Murray Butler	8

Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Columbia University
Title:	Departmental Reports to the President
ID:	6947874
ID:	UA#0176
Date [inclusive]:	1890-1927
Physical Description:	0.83 linear feet 2 document boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains three sets of reports from the academic departments to the President of Columbia College (1890) and Columbia University (1900 and 1927).

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Departmental Reports to the President; Box and Folder number (if known); University Archives, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Libraries.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

Departmental reports to President Seth Low indicate that he was acting as chief academic officer as well as president of what was Columbia College in 1890 and Columbia University in 1900. Departments received the circular from the President's Office (December 4, 1890 and October 4, 1900) and were asked to provide answers to numbered questions. The reports include the names and rank of current faculty and their current roles, a department's immediate financial needs (for salaries, libraries, and equipment), and what new courses they would like to offer. The 1900 reports include those from the departments of the medical school.

In 1927 the Trustees and President Nicholas Murray Butler considered initiating a major fundraising campaign to expand Columbia's capital resources. The John Price Jones Corporation, which assisted educational, philanthropic, and scientific organizations procure endowments, was hired to organize the campaign. On April 14, 1927 John Price Jones submitted its "Survey and Plan of Fund Raising for Columbia University" to the Trustees. It was estimated at the time that \$8,000,000 would be raised for the University at a cost of approximately \$250,000. On May 2, however, the Trustees decided not to implement the plan formulated by John Price Jones.

An important element of the study was a questionnaire sent to each of Columbia's academic departments by President Butler. Departments were asked to conduct a self-assessment and to predict their needs for the year 1950. The replies to the questionnaire were confidential and allowed the departments to provide thorough and often blunt evaluations of their role in their academic fields and of their standing compared to their competitors at other universities. They provided John Price Jones with frank and detailed information about the financial requirements and individual accomplishments of Columbia's various departments.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Summary

This collection consists of the reports submitted by the different academic departments to the President in 1890, 1900 and 1927.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in two series.

[^ 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>

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

The following box is located off-site: Box 1. 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.

Accruals

No additions are expected.

Processing Information

The Seth Low selections in this collection were processed by John Kim in 2000 and edited by Marilyn Pettit in February 2001. The Nicholas Murray Butler selections were processed by Alexander Hunt in December 1992 and edited by Jocelyn Wilk in February 2002. Finding aid written by Joanna Rios in June 2019.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

For additional correspondence between the Office of the President and the academic departments, see [Central Files \(UA#0001\)](#). Earlier departmental reports can be found in the [Columbia College papers \(UA#0224\)](#).

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Columbia University -- : Curricula
- Columbia College (New York, N.Y.)
- Columbia University -- : Administration

Collection Inventory

Series I. Reports to President Seth Low, 1890-1900

box 1

Scope and Contents

The reports in these series are the responses to a circular sent out by the President of the College and then University Seth Low.

Title/Description	Instances	
Architecture, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 1
Arts, School of, 1890	box 1	folder 2
Astronomy, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 3
Chemistry, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 4
Engineering, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 5
English, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 6
English Composition and Rhetoric, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 7
Germanic Languages, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 8

Departmental Reports to the President6947874

Greek, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 9
History, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 10
Latin, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 11
Geology, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 12
Geology, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 13
Mathematics, Department of , 1890	box 1	folder 14
Mathematics, Department of , 1890	box 1	folder 15
Mathematics, Department of , 1890	box 1	folder 16
Mineralogy and Metallurgy, Department of , 1890	box 1	folder 17
Philosophy, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 18
Political Economy and Social Science, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 19
Physics, Department of, 1890	box 1	folder 20
Departmental Records, Report, 1890	box 1	folder 21
Anatomy, Department of , 1900	box 1	folder 22
Architecture, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 23
Astronomy, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 24
Biology, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 25
Botany, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 26
Chemistry, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 27
Civil Engineering, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 28
Economics and Social Science, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 29
Electrical Engineering, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 30
Geology, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 31
Germanic Languages, Department of , 1900	box 1	folder 32
Greek, Department of , 1900	box 1	folder 33
History, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 34
Indo-Iranian Languages, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 35
Latin, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 36
Law, School of, 1900	box 1	folder 37
Mathematics, Department of , 1900	box 1	folder 38
Mechanical Engineering, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 39
Mechanics, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 40

Mineralogy, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 41
Mining and Metallurgy, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 42
Pathology, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 43
Philosophy and Education, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 44
Physics, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 45
Physiological Chemistry, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 46
Physiology, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 47
Psychology and Anthropology, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 48
Public Law and Jurisprudence, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 49
Romance Language, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 50
Semitic Languages, Department of, 1900	box 1	folder 51

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series II. Reports to President Nicholas Murray Butler, 1927

box 2

Scope and Contents

Departments were asked to assess their position in their respective academic field and to predict their financial needs to the year 1950. The length of the responses varies: some are very brief while others provide quite extensive answers (e.g., the Department of Chemistry). The Departments of Romance Languages and Zoology appended reports on their departments to their replies.

Title/Description	Instances	
Anthropology to Chemistry, 1927	box 2	folder 1
Scope and Contents Anthropology, Architecture, Botany, Business, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry		
Chinese to Germanic Languages, 1927	box 2	folder 2
Scope and Contents Chinese, Civil Engineering, Dental and Oral Surgery, Economics, English and Comparative Literature, Electrical Engineering, Fine Arts, Geology and Mineralogy, Germanic Languages		
Greek and Latin to Mechanical Engineering, 1927	box 2	folder 3

Scope and Contents

Greek and Latin, History, Physical Education, Indo-Iranian Languages, Journalism, Law, Legislative Drafting and Research Fund, Library, Library Service, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering

Mining and Metallurgy to Romance Languages, 1927

box 2

folder 4

Scope and Contents

Mining and Metallurgy, Music, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Public Law and Jurisprudence, Romance Languages

Semitic Languages to Zoology, 1927

box 2

folder 5

Scope and Contents

Semitic Languages, Slavonic Languages, Social Science, University Medical Officer, Columbia University Press, Zoology

Medicine, 1927

box 2

folder 6

Scope and Contents

Anatomy (missing), Bacteriology, Biological Chemistry, Dermatology, Diseases of Children, Epidemiology, Industrial Medicine, Industrial Physiology, Laryngology and Otolaryngology, Medicine, Neurological, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedic Surgery, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology, Psychiatry, Public Health Administration, Sanitary Science, Surgery, Urology

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)