

Finding Aid for the Robert S. Brookings Papers

Descriptive Summary

Repository: University Archives, Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries, One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130, Telephone: (314) 935-5444 or (314) 935-9730, Fax (314) 935-8320, e-mail: spec@wumail.wustl.edu, website: <http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives>

Creator: Robert S. Brookings.

Title: Robert S. Brookings Papers.

Dates: 1890 - 1980.

Quantity: 1 cubic foot and oversized items.

Language: English.

Biographical Note

Robert S. Brookings (1850 -1932) was born and acquired his early education in Cecil County, Maryland, before moving to St. Louis, Missouri, to begin his career at age 17. He began as a clerk and later salesman for Cupples & Marston., manufacturers and distributors of woodenware. In less than four years he became a partner in the firm at age twenty-one.

He achieved remarkable success in business at an early age, and began to reach out for a broader perspective by acquiring education and European culture. He read deeply under the direction of Dean Snow of Washington College in St. Louis and traveled extensively in Europe.

As a civic leader and philanthropist, Brookings turned his creative energy to building Washington University and other St. Louis institutions until, with the coming of World War I, he moved to Washington and onto the world stage. He served on the new War Industries Board as commissioner of Finished Products and Chairman of the Price Fixing Committee. In this role he became the link between the government and hundreds of industries. He achieved remarkable results under very difficult circumstances, and for his war service he was recognized with the U.S. Distinguished Service Medal, the French Legion of Honor, and Italy's Commander of the Crown.

His work within the government during the war showed him the need for improved economic research and a trained corps of civil servants. He established a graduate school as a part of Washington University and two institutes to address these problems. Finally, Brookings' dream of an independent research institution devoted to solving problems of government and the economy became a reality with the merger in 1927 of the Robert Brookings Graduate School, the Institute of Economics, and the original Institute for Government Research established in 1916.

Scope and Content Notes

The papers of Robert S. Brookings, businessman, Chairman of the Washington University Board of Trustees (1895-1928), and founder of the Brookings Institution, comprise one (1) cubic foot of material consisting of correspondence, publications of Mr. Brookings, biographical data, and publications of the Brookings Institution.

The collection is organized as follows:

Series 01: Correspondence (1890-1930)

Series 02: Brookings' Publications

Series 03: Biographical Data

Series 04: The Brookings Institution

Series 05: Photographs

Series 06: Degrees/Citations

Series 07: Miscellaneous

Administrative Information

Source of Collection

The original material was donated to University Archives. Additional material was given to the collection on February 3, 1983 by Eugene G. Monnig, (W.U. Class of 1939).

Accruals

The accruals are interfiled with collection.

Processing Information

Compiled by Sarah Pabarcus in November 2005.

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions to access.

Use Restrictions

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of University Archives Materials.

Users of the collection who wish to use items from this collection, in whole or in part, in any form of publication (as defined in the form) must sign and submit to the Washington University Archives a hard copy of the Notification of Intent to Quote from or Publish University Archives Materials form.

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Collection Contents
Series 01: Correspondence

Box No. Folder

- 01 Correspondence (1890-99)
- 1890. June 3. George Bartlett (Treasurer of Washington University) to Henry Ware Eliot re: Eliot's contribution to W.U. Emergency Fund.
 - 1892. May 27. George Bartlett to Henry Ware Eliot re: more Eliot contributions.
 - 1899. March 13. An appeal by Brookings for financial aid to W.U. -sent to 200 selected citizens.
- Correspondence (1905; 1909-13)
- 1905. November 11. W.J. Holbrook to Robert S. Brookings re: business affairs.
 - 1905. November 13. Receipt from Holbrook-Blackwelder Real Estate Trust Co. for payment of \$26,483.88 to the firm from Brookings.
 - 1909. Copy of agreement to be used by donors to W.U.'s Million Dollar Endowment Fund.
 - 1909. List of contributors to the Fund.
 - 1910. Deed executed by Samuel Cupples naming Brookings and Edward Hidden as trustees of funds provided for Martha Cupples Scudder.
 - 1911. March 31. Copy of agreement entered into between members of the Carter family and others and John A. Krumrine re: timber cutting on the Carter Estate in Cecil County, Maryland.
 - 1912. December 31. Receipt issued to Brookings for his payment to the St. Louis Union Trust Co. of \$2,250.
 - 1913. May 29. Promissory note in the amount of \$50,000 issued by Brookings to the Brookings timber and Lumber Co. Marked paid 1/12/13.
 - 1913. December 31. Receipt issued to Brookings for his payment of \$3,250 to the St. Louis Union Trust Company.
- Correspondence (1914-19)
- 1914. Correspondence, deeds, legal documents re: Brookings' purchase of the Walnut Hill property in Maryland from the Carters (8 pieces).
 - 1914. December 21. Receipt issued to Brookings from St. Louis Union Trust Co. for payment in the amount of \$1,500 extra assessment on Brookings' subscription to the New Iberia Syndicate.

1915. June 8. Receipt of \$1,000,000 issued to Brookings by E.A. Engler, Treasurer of W.U., acknowledging gifts by Brookings.

1915. November 20. J.E. Brookings to Robert S. Brookings re: negotiations for merger between Brookings Timber and Lumber Co. and the Del Norte Co.

1915. December 3. Robert S. Brookings to Walter DuB. Brookings re: the above negotiations.

1915. December 18. Two memoranda from Walter DuB. Brookings to Robert S. Brookings re: transfer of stock of C and O Lumber Co.

1916. August 30. A.T. Perkins to Robert S. Brookings re: New Iberia Syndicate and St. Mary Syndicate. Also receipt re same, dated September 8 (2 pieces).

1917. March 14. Receipt for \$5,000 issued to Robert S. Brookings by J.E. Brookings.

1917. March 16. J.E. Brookings to Robert S. Brookings re: financial affairs.

1917. March 27. Receipt for \$9,500 issued to Robert S. Brookings by J.E. Brookings.

1917. March 28. J.E. Brookings to Robert S. Brookings re: financial affairs.

1917. August 12. To Chancellor Hall

1917. October 10. W. DuB. Brookings to Robert S. Brookings re: C and O Lumber Co. stock.

1917. December 1. Receipt for \$15,500 issued to Robert S. Brookings by J.E. Brookings. RSB was in the process of buying all JEB's stock in the Brookings Timber & Lumber Co.

1918. December 27. Robert S. Brookings to John N. Rogers detailing Brookings' relationship with the Brookings Timber and Lumber Co.

1919. April 1. Frank D. Stout to Robert S. Brookings re: Brookings' purchase of the Steamer Necanicum for the Brookings Commercial Co.

1919. May 11. Promissory note to Brookings from the Brookings Commercial Co. in the amount of \$10,000 in repayment of Brookings' share of the cost of the Steamer Necanicum.

1919. May 29. Receipt issued to Robert S. Brookings for \$3,250 by the Del Norte Syndicate.

Correspondence (1920-24; 1930; Undated)

1920. May 25. Martha S. Overall to Robert S. Brookings and Edward Hidden re: her interest in Samuel Cupples' Trust Fund.

1920. June 3-19. Correspondence re: Brookings' business dealings with the Stout Lumber Co. (5 pieces).

1921. April 26. J.R. Lindsay to Robert S. Brookings re: the R.R. (Railroad?) Underwriter's Syndicate.

1924. September 24. Robert S. Brookings to Ludwig Kotany re: W.U. and the Robert Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government.

1924. September 24. Robert S. Brookings to Ludwig Kotany re: W.U. affairs.

1930. January 6. Leo Pasvolsky to Robert S. Brookings. Includes Pasvolsky's comments on Brookings' paper on "National Economic Democracy."

Undated: Certificate of stock transfer re: Brookings and the Del Norte Company. Gives details of Brookings' relationship with the Del Norte Co., and the C and O Lumber Co., and the Brookings' Commercial Co.

Undated: Typewritten page dictated by RSB re: the New Zealand Empowering Act and its possible application to the United States. (date: 1930 or later).

Undated: Page 2 of a letter from Robert S. Brookings to John S. Owen.

Correspondence (Personal; 1917; 1927; Undated)

1917. August 19. ALS, Robert S. Brookings to his nephew, Robert Brookings Wallace, postmarked Washington, D.C.

1927. January 2. RSB to nephew Robert Brookings Wallace.

1927. January 6. Letter, RSB to grandniece Kathleen, n.d., but presumably enclosed in same envelope addressed to RBW, and dated January 6, 1927.

Undated: Letter, n.d., to "My very dear Robert," and signed, "Mother," presumably RBW's mother.

Series 02: Brookings Publications

Box No.	Folder
01	"Address given by Mr. Brookings at the lunch he tendered to Mr. Carnegie, May 2, 1913", unpublished typescript.
	"Agricultural Corporations; "The Conversion of Agriculture into Prosperous Industry", Washington, 1928.
	"Big Business and the Public", Garden City, 1926. A publication of remarks made by Brookings at the dinner of the New York Economic Club held at the Hotel Astor, April 28, 1926.

"Education for Political Leadership", Garden City, 1927. An address made at the Washington University Commencement exercises June 7, 1927.

"Overproduction in its Relation to our Anti-Trust, Immigration and Protective Tariff Laws", Garden City, 1927.

"The Proposed European Economic Conference", Garden City, 1926.

"Trade Relation and Agriculture", Garden City, 1927.

Series 03: Biographical Data

Box No. Folder

01 Hagedorn, Hermann. *Brookings: A Biography*. Macmillan Co.: New York, 1936.

Memorials and Testimonials

A Testimonial in Honor of Robert Somers Brookings, 1850-1932. Washington University Commencement, June 6, 1933. (5 copies)

"In Memoriam, Robert Somers Brookings". The Washington University Alumni Bulletin. Vol 2 #3, December, 1932. Includes statements by Malvern B. Clopton, Charles Nagel, George R. Throop, W. Mckin Marriott, Wiley Rutledge, Isidor Loeb.

Newspaper Clippings

Press Releases

Moulton, Harold G. "Robert Somers Brookings", an address delivered at Washington University, February 21, 1950.

Nagel, Charles. Robert Somers Brookings Address. Washington University Commencement, June 6, 1933.

Pritchett, Henry S. "Robert Somers Brookings".

Two typescript memoirs by Brookings, 1920 and 1932. (not on shelf as of 11/10/05)

Series 04: The Brookings Institution

Box No. Folder

- 01 Brookings Institution (Dedication Exercise and Memorial Address; 1931, 1935)
Dedication Exercises, The Brookings Institution Building, May 15, 1931, Washington, D.C.
Robert Somers Brookings, Founder of the Brookings Institution. Washington University, 1933. Includes addresses by Henry S. Pritchett, Charles G. Ross, Frederic A. Delano, Bernard M. Baruch, Harold G. Moulton.
- Brookings Institution (Public Reports; 1928-29, 1931)
The Brookings Institution (annual bulletins or catalogue), 1928, 1929, 1931.
The Brookings Institution: Report of the President for the Year Ending June Thirtieth 1929.
- The Charter and By-Laws of The Brookings Institution, May 1959.
(not on shelf as of 11/10/05)

Series 05: Photographs

Box No. Folder

- 01 Photos (with Carnegie, A. et al)
Photo - Andrew Carnegie and Robert S. Brookings attending the 25th Anniversary of the German Kaiser, June 1, 1913
Photo - Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie and Robert S. Brookings at WU (2 different shots)
Photo - Andrew Carnegie and Robert S. Brookings, June 1913
- Photo – Clemmons, Samuel and Robert S. Brookings at Commencement Exercises at U. of MO, Columbia MO, June 1902 (received honorary degree) (1 original and 2 copies)
- Photos - Chancellor's House - Cecilwood (now Alumni House). Exterior and interior shots, one shot of Robert S. Brookings in front of a fireplace.
- Photo - Miscellaneous photos of Robert S. Brookings with Negatives (3 different shots)
- Photo - War Industries Board appointed by the President, July 1917
- Photo (large) - U.S. War Industries Board, Washington, D.C., 1918.

Photo (large) - Robert S. Brookings.

Oversized Photo - Robert S. Brookings (2 different shots).
Drawer
Range 06

Series 06: Degrees/Citations

Box No.	Folder
Oversized Drawer Range 06	Gran Maestro Dell'Ordine Della Corona D'Italia, April 22, 1920
	Ordre National de la Légion D'Honneur, October 24, 1919
	Honorary Advisor to the Army Industrial College, June 30, 1925
	The Senate of WU to Robert S. Brookings, June 11, 1929
	Honorary Doctorate from WU, June 11, 1929
	Honorary Doctorate from Harvard University with wax seal, June 23, 1920
	The Distinguished Service Medal, February 9, 1926
	Copy of a Memorial Tablet to Wayman Crow
	US War Industrial Board to the family of Robert S. Brookings, November 15, 1932

Series 07: Miscellaneous

Box No.	Folder
01	Collected Papers from the Washington University School of Medicine, Vol 1, 1921. Inscribed c. "To President Robert S. Brookings from the Faculty of the Medical School, April 1923."
	Cupples Station First Mortgage - The St. Louis Terminal Cupples Station and Property Company to Union Trust Company of St. Louis, June 1, 1897. "Cupples Station – Terminals in St. Louis"
	Genealogy of Brookings family

Gill, McCune and Isaac A. Hedges. The Romance of Chouteau's Pond. (2 copies inscribed by Hedges).

Ludmerer, Kenneth M. "Reform of Medical Education at Washington University". Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences. April 1980.

Newsclipping, n.d., "Old St. Louis Houses: Brookings-Wallace Homes." (20th in a series on old St. Louis houses.) (not on shelf as of 11/10/05)

Washington University Convocation, 2/21/50, a program. (not on shelf as of 11/10/05)