

Registers of Papers in the Manuscript
Division of the Library of Congress

GEORGE B. CORTELYOU

**A REGISTER OF HIS PAPERS
IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

Prepared by

Manuscript Division
Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

Administrative Information

The papers of George Bruce Cortelyou (1862-1940), private secretary to William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt, secretary of commerce and labor, chairman of the Republican National Committee, postmaster general, and secretary of the treasury, are chiefly the gift of his family. The bulk of the papers was deposited in the Library by his widow, Lily Hinds Cortelyou, and his son, George B. Cortelyou, Jr., in 1942; these papers were converted a gift by George B. Cortelyou, Jr., Grace Cortelyou Weintz, and Peter C. Cortelyou in 1966. A large addition to the papers was received by the Library as a gift of George B. Cortelyou, Jr., in 1966, and other items were added to the papers in 1967 and 1973.

The papers making up the original acquisition together with an item added in 1967 were arranged and described that year by Lloyd A. Dunlap. In 1973 Anita Nolen arranged and described the remainder of the papers, preparing what is now Part II of the register. The register was revised by Wilhelmen Curry in 1981 and prepared in final form in 1982.

Copyright in the unpublished writings of George Bruce Cortelyou in the papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Linear feet of shelf space occupied:	35
Approximate number of items:	17,000

Biographical Note

- 1862, July 26 Born, New York City, N.Y.
- 1879 Graduated, Hempstead Institute, Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.
- 1882 Graduated, Massachusetts State Normal School, Westfield, Mass.
- 1883 Studied stenography, New York, N.Y.
- 1883-1885 Shorthand reporter, New York, N.Y.
- 1885-1889 Preparatory school principal, New York, N.Y.
- 1888 Married Lily Morris Hinds
- 1890-1891 Private secretary to Surveyor of Port of New York, New York, N.Y.
- 1891-1895 Private secretary and clerk, successively, in office of fourth assistant postmaster general, Washington, D.C.
- 1895 LL.B., Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
- 1895-1897 Stenographer and executive clerk, successively, to President Grover Cleveland
- 1896 LL.M., George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- 1898-1900 Assistant secretary to President William McKinley
- 1900-1901 Secretary to President William McKinley
- 1901-1903 Secretary to President Theodore Roosevelt
- 1903 Appointed first secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor
- 1904 Elected chairman of the Republican National Committee; resigned as secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor
- 1905 Appointed postmaster general
- 1907 Appointed secretary of the treasury

1909-1935 President, New York Consolidated Gas Co.

1940, Oct. 23 Died, Huntington, Long Island, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

Part I

Part I of the papers of George Bruce Cortelyou spans the years from 1871 to 1941. Only a single document, however, is dated later than March 1909, the bulk of the collection is dated between 1901 and 1908.

The material consists of general correspondence, letterpress copybooks, memoranda, and printed matter. The last is principally concerned with Will McKinley, whom Cortelyou served as personal secretary. The correspondence contains a few family letters, but the great majority of the letters relate to the administration of the government departments which Cortelyou headed to his role as chairman of the Republican National Committee in the Presidential campaign of 1904. Politics, appointments, and personal business affairs are other subjects of the correspondence. An executive file contains a great number of letters to or from Theodore Roosevelt and his secretary, William Loeb (1866-1937). A subject file is principally composed of material assembled for a projected biography of William McKinley.

Significant numbers of letters are found in the collection from James Clarkson, Charles G. Dawes, Elmer Dover, Harry S. New, Thomas C. Platt, and Nathan B. Scott. Among other prominent correspondents are Alvey A. Adee, Robert Bacon, Albert J. Beveridge, Cornelius N. Bliss, Edward Bok, Charles Bonaparte, Nicholas M. Butler, Joseph G. Cannon, Andrew Carnegie, William R. Day, Charles W. Fairbanks, John H. Finley, Moreton Frewen, Richard W. Gilde, John Hay, Frank H. Hitchcock, Henry Cabot Lodge, Ida S. McKinley, James C. McReynolds, Victor H. Metcalf, William H. Moody, Henry C. Payne, Jacob Riis, Elihu Root, Leslie M. Shaw, Charles E. Smith, Oscar S. Straus, and William Taft.

Part II

Part II of the Cortelyou Papers span the period 1871 to 1948, but are chiefly dated between 1897 and 1902.

The material includes diaries, correspondence, a subject file, and miscellany. The correspondence file contains some Cortelyou family correspondence, but many of the letters and memoranda pertain to McKinley's presidential administration (1897-1901). It includes letters sent and received by McKinley as well as a few items of the presidential correspondence of Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison. The bulk of the material in the subject file concerns the Spanish-American War and related events, although files relating to the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, assassination plots against President McKinley, and presidential protection are also included. Financial ledgers of both Cortelyou and McKinley, clippings, invitations, and other printed matter can be found in the

miscellany file.

Significant correspondents include Alvey A. Adee, Andrew Carnegie, William R. Day, Mark Hanna, John Hay, Henry Cabot Lodge, Ida S. McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and John Sherman.

Description of Series

Container Nos. Series

Part I

- 1-3 Letterbooks, 1899-1903.
Copies of letters sent. Twelve vols. chronologically arranged; individually indexed.
- 4-23 General Correspondence, 1899-1909.
Letters received, with copies of some replies. Alphabetically arranged within four subseries:
1899-1904
7 Mar. 1905-1 July 1907
1 July 1907-3 Mar. 1909
1903-1907, congratulatory letters
- 24-33 Political Correspondence, 1904.
Letters received as chairman of the Republican National Committee, with copies of some replies. Alphabetically arranged. Some files missing.
- 34-37 Executive File, 1901-1909.
Correspondence to or from Theodore Roosevelt or his staff; bulletins issued, Sept. 1901, on William McKinley's condition; memoranda and orders relating to the White House and the Executive Office. Alphabetically arranged.
- 38-48 Subject File, 1901-1908.
Printed matter, correspondence, photographs, reports, and memoranda relating to a projected biography of William McKinley, the estates of William and Ida S. McKinley, the McKinley Memorial Association; the departments of commerce and labor, the post office, and the treasury; and miscellaneous subjects.
- 49-51 Miscellany, 1900-1941.
Receipts, notebooks, clippings, cards, printed matter, and a letter of Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt.

Container Nos. Series

Part II

- 52-54 Diaries, 1897-1901.
Diaries of Cortelyou, 1897-1901, and engagement books containing records of William McKinley's appointments, 1899-1900.
- 55-64 Correspondence, 1879-1932.
Cortelyou family correspondence and general correspondence, including transcribed shorthand notes of George B. Cortelyou, chronologically arranged.
- 65-71 Subject File, 1897-1948.
Printed matter, correspondence, speeches, and memoranda, arranged alphabetically by subject and chronologically within each file.
- 72-76 Miscellany, 1871-1940.
Financial ledgers, notebook, estate of William McKinley, including will, clippings, invitations and calling cards, printed matter, and assorted miscellany, grouped by type of material where possible, but otherwise unarranged.

Container List

Container Nos. Contents

PART I: LETTERBOOKS, 1901-1903

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Vols.
1-4, 24 Apr. 1899-24 Sept. 1901 |
| 2 | 5-8, 24 Sept. 1901-20 Feb. 1903 |
| 3 | 9-12, 20 Feb.-8 Dec. 1903 |

PART I: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1909

- | | |
|----|---|
| 4 | 1899-1904
A-D (24 folders) |
| 5 | E-H (19 folders) |
| 6 | J-M (17 folders) |
| 7 | N-S (22 folders) |
| 8 | T-Z (15 folders) |
| 9 | 7 Mar. 1905-1 July 1907
A-D (20 folders) |
| 10 | E-H (17 folders) |
| 11 | I-Mc (17 folders) |
| 12 | Ma-Mu (15 folders) |
| 13 | N-Q (20 folders) |
| 14 | R-S (15 folders) |
| 15 | T-Z (11 folders) |
| 16 | 1 July 1907-3 Mar. 1909
A-C (12 folders) |

PART I: GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1899-1909 (Continued)

<i>Container Nos.</i>	<i>Contents</i>
17	1 July 1907-3 Mar. 1909 D-G (17 folders)
18	H-K (13 folders)
19	L-O (18 folders)
20	P-W (25 folders)
21	1903-1907, congratulatory letters A-J 1903, (9 folders)
22	K-Z 1903, (12 folders)
23	A-W 1905, (5 folders) A-Z 1907, (5 folders)

PART I: POLITICAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1904

24	A-B (13 folders)
25	C-L (23 folders)
26	Mc (11 folders)
27	M (21 folders)
28	N-O (11 folders)
29	P (22 folders)
30	Q-R (16 folders)
31	S-Sl (20 folders)
32	Sm-Sy (17 folders)
33	T-W (9 folders)

PART I: EXECUTIVE FILE, 1891-1909

34	Office memoranda and executive orders, 1903, n.d. Barnes, Benjamin F., July 1903-1905
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PART I: EXECUTIVE FILE, 1891-1909 (Continued)

<i>Container Nos.</i>	<i>Contents</i>
34 (cont.)	William Loeb (1866-1937) Mar. 1903-Aug. 1904 (12 folders)
35	Sept. 1904-Dec. 1905 (12 folders)
36	Jan. 1906-Feb. 1909 (15 folders) McKinley, William, 1899-1901 (7 folders) Miscellaneous items, A-Z
37	Roosevelt, Roosevelt, 1902, n.d. (21 folders) Roosevelt, Edith Kermit Carow, 1902 White House, 1891-1907

PART I: SUBJECT FILE, 1901-1908

38	Department of Commerce and Labor, 1903-1904, n.d. Press releases (9 folders) Estimates, n.d. (3 folders)
39	Mail fraud trial of E. G. Lewis Correspondence 1905 1906 1907 Memoranda and reports 1906, n.d. 1907, n.d. 1908, n.e. Clippings and printed matter, 1907-1908
40	McKinley, Ida S., estate, crrespondence, 1904 McKinley, William, estate Correspondence, 1901-1904 Letterbooks 1901-1902 1901-1904 William McKinley Memorial Association Correspondence, 1903-1904 Letterbook, 1901-1904

PART I: SUBJECT FILE, 1901-1908 (Continued)

<i>Container Nos.</i>	<i>Contents</i>
41	William McKinley biography Correspondence, 1901-1908, A-Z (8 folders)
42-46	Printed matter (20 folders)
47	(5 folders) Photographs (2 folders)
48	Miscellaneous items, 1904 Christmas lists Dinners Republican Party Department of Treasury Bonds Miscellany University Club Westfield State Normal School, Westfield, Mass.

PART I: MISCELLANY, 1900-1941

49	Receipts, 1900-1904, A-Z (10 folders)
50	Shorthand notebooks Printed matter (4 folders)
51	Cards Clippings (6 folders) Photographs Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt to George B. Cortelyou, Jr., 15 Aug. 1941

PART II: DIARIES, 1897-1901

52	1897-1898 1899
53	1900 1901

PART II: DIARIES, 1897-1901 (Continued)

<i>Container Nos.</i>	<i>Contents</i>
54	Engagement books (appointments of the President) 1899 1900

PART II: CORRESPONDENCE, 1879-1932

55	Family correspondence, 1879-1898, n.d. General correspondence July 1884-1896 1897 (6 folders)
56	Jan.-Aug. 1898 (10 folders)
57	Sept.-Dec. 1898 (10 folders)
58	1899 (14 folders)
59	1900 (10 folders)
60	1901 (12 folders)
61	1902 (11 folders)
62	1902 1904-1909 (6 folders) 1915-1932
63	Fragments and transcribed shorthand notes, n.d.
64	Telephone calls, 1900 May-July Aug. Transcription of telephone message, 1901 Shorthand notes, Sept.-Dec. 1900

PART II: SUBJECT FILE, 1897-1948

65	Assassination plots against William McKinley Oct.-Nov. 1897 Jan.-Apr. 1898
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PART II: SUBJECT FILE, 1897-1948 (Continued)

<i>Container Nos.</i>	<i>Contents</i>
65 (cont.)	Assassination plots against William McKinley May-Aug. 1898 Sept.-Dec. 1898 Feb.-Dec. 1899 Jan.-June 1900 July-Aug. 1900 (2 folders) Sept.-Dec. 1900 Jan.-Sept. 1901
66	George B. Cortelyou, biography and related correspondence, 1948 Ohio senatorial campaign of Mark Hanna and related correspondence, 1898 Ohio senatorial campaign of Mark Hanna and related telegrams, 1898 Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, N.Y. Speech material, 1901 (2 folders) Printed matter, 1901 (2 folders)
67	Peace Commission, instructions and related correspondence, Aug.-Dec. 1898 (2 folders) Presidential protection, related correspondence and newspaper clippings, Apr.-Nov. 1898
68	Spanish-American War General Correspondence May 1897-July 1898 (13 folders)
69	Aug.-Oct. 1898 (8 folders)
70	Nov.-Dec. 1898 (7 folders)
71	1899-1901 (8 folders) Fragments, 1898 (4 folders) Printed matter, 1898

PART II: MISCELLANY, 1871-1940

72	Financial ledger of Cortelyou Material removed from wallet of Cortelyou at the time of his death Reminiscences of Mrs. George B. Cortelyou
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PART II: MISCELLANY, 1871-1940 (Continued)

<i>Container Nos.</i>	<i>Contents</i>
73	William McKinley's canceled checks (4 folders)
74	William McKinley's check stubs (10 folders)
75	Estate of William McKinley, including will, 1901 Account book of William McKinley's estate Letterbook, 1897-1901 William McKinley's bills, 1882-1884 List of McKinley's political appointments on note cards
76	Material removed from McKinley's wallet at the time of his assassination McKinley's House of Representatives campaign, 1881 Address to Congress by Ulysses S. Grant, 1871 Clippings Invitations, calling cards (2 folders) Documents relating to Abraham Lincoln's gavel, 1901 Platt amendment and related correspondence, 1901-1906 Printed matter (3 folders) Photographs