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# Guide to the Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin Papers 1881-1944



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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Identifier</b>	ICU.SPCL.MCLAUGHLIN
<b>Title</b>	McLaughlin, Andrew Cunningham. Papers
<b>Date</b>	1881-1944
<b>Size</b>	2 linear ft. (4 boxes)
<b>Repository</b>	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
<b>Abstract</b>	Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin, Historian. The Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin Papers contain personal and professional correspondence, notes, and manuscripts. The collection documents McLaughlin's interest in improving the quality of teaching history and teacher training; the role of the historian in American society, in particular during and after World War I; and the writing of constitutional history.

## Information on Use

### Access

No restrictions.

### Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: McLaughlin, Andrew Cunningham. Papers, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

### Biographical Note

Andrew C. McLaughlin (1861-1947), the son of Scottish immigrants, was born in Beardstown, Illinois and grew up in Muskegon, Michigan. He received a bachelor's degree (1882) and law degree (1885) from the University of Michigan, practiced law in Chicago for several months, and returned to Ann Arbor as an instructor in Latin. When a mentor, Thomas Cooley, became chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1887, McLaughlin moved to the history department and assumed Cooley's courses in constitutional history. In 1890, he married Lois Angell, daughter of University President James B. Angell. In 1891, he was appointed professor of history.

During these years, McLaughlin published several books on the history of Michigan and became increasingly involved in national historical affairs as head of an American Historical Association

committee on secondary teaching and as managing editor of the *American Historical Review*. By 1903, when McLaughlin was appointed director of the Carnegie Institution's Bureau of Historical Research in Washington, he was a widely respected historian. In early 1906, following the death of Hermann von Holst and the resignation of J. Franklin Jameson at Chicago, President William Rainey Harper and Henry Pratt Judson persuaded McLaughlin to join the faculty of the new Midwestern university. McLaughlin served as chairman of the Department of History from 1906 until 1927, as professor until 1929, and as emeritus from 1929-1936.

While administrative duties took much of McLaughlin's time at Chicago, his Papers reflect three intellectual interests, which dominated the mature years of his career. He was concerned first with the quality of teaching in history. McLaughlin devoted himself to the careful training of students and collaborated with Claude H. Van Tyne of the University of Michigan in writing a textbook on American history. The correspondence between these two scholars is a commentary on the difficulties of conveying historical knowledge without sacrificing its integrity to popular expectations.

McLaughlin was equally concerned with the role of the historian in American society. As council-member and president of the American Historical Association, he argued for an active professional interest in contemporary political issues. When America entered the war against Germany in 1917, McLaughlin led a group of noted historians to form the National Board for Historical Service. "In my judgment," he wrote to Jameson, "the value of the historian now is chiefly in pointing out the route into the future which his various experiences have enabled him to see. In other words, it is time for us to dare to use our historical information for purposes of prophecy and actual guidance". Sponsored by the Bureau, McLaughlin went to Britain in the spring of 1918 to deliver a series of lectures explaining American war aims and endorsing the alliance of the Atlantic democracies. The British tour was one of the proudest moments of McLaughlin's life, and neither the death of his son Rowland on the battlefield nor the later American rejection of the League of Nations could dim his Wilsonian confidence in the elemental justice of the war.

The third concern of McLaughlin's Chicago years was the writing of constitutional history. Beginning with his first major work on the subject, *The Confederation and the Constitution, 1783-1789* (1905), he produced a steady stream of articles, lectures, and books on the development of American constitutional democracy: *The Courts, the Constitution and Parties* (1912); *Steps in the Development of American Democracy* (1920); *The Foundations of American Constitutionalism* (1932); and the culminating work of his life of scholarship, *A Constitutional History of the United States* (1935), winner of the Pulitzer Prize for history. McLaughlin's distinctive contribution to the historiography of the Constitution was his conviction that American political institutions were less the fruit of revolutionary fervor than the product of organic development rooted in the British colonial experience. This emphasis on evolution and continuity marked a sharp departure from the interpretations of earlier scholars and laid the basis for a fundamental revision of their work.

## Scope Note

The Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin Papers contain personal and professional correspondence, notes, and manuscripts. The collection documents McLaughlin's interest in improving the quality of teaching history and teacher training; the role of the historian in American society, in particular during and after World War I; and the writing of constitutional history.

The collection is comprised of three series: Series I: Family Correspondence, 1881-1936; Series II: Professional Correspondence, 1890-1944; and Series III: Notes and Manuscripts. Among McLaughlin's correspondents are George Burton Adams, Henry Steele Commager, Edward Samuel Corwin, William Edward Dodd, Max Farrand, Albert Bushnell Hart, John Franklin Jameson, Waldo Gifford Leland, James Harvey Robinson, James Thomson Shotwell, Frederick Jackson Turner, Carl Van Doren and Claude Halstead Van Tyne.

## Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

## Subject Headings

- McLaughlin, Andrew Cunningham, 1861-1947
- Adams, George Burton, 1851-1925
- Commager, Henry Steele, 1902-
- Corwin, Edward Samuel, 1878-1963
- Dodd, William Edward, 1869-1940
- Farrand, Max, 1869-1945
- Hart, Albert Bushnell, 1854-1943
- Jameson, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1859-1937
- Leland, Waldo Gifford, 1879-1966
- Robinson, James Harvey, 1863-1936
- Shotwell, James Thomson, 1874-1965
- Turner, Frederick Jackson, 1861-1932
- Van Doren, Carl, 1885-1950
- Van Tyne, Claude Halstead, 1869-1930
- Constitutional history-United States
- History-Study and teaching
- United States-History-Study and teaching

## INVENTORY

### Series I: Family Correspondence, 1881-1936

#### Box 1

#### Folder 1

1881-1882, Letters to and from ACM's mother

**Box 1**

**Folder 2**

1935-1936, and undated Letters from James C. McLaughlin (brother), Lois Angell McLaughlin (wife), and James Angell MacLachlan (son)

**Box 1**

**Folder 3**

1915-1923, Concerning Rowland Hazard McLaughlin (son)

**Box 1**

**Folder 4**

1929-1935, Concerning Isabel Lois McLaughlin (niece)

**Series II: Professional Correspondence, 1890-1944**

**Box 1**

**Folder 5**

Professional Correspondence, 1890-1904

**Box 1**

**Folder 6**

Professional Correspondence, 1905-1907

**Box 1**

**Folder 7**

Professional Correspondence, January 1908-September 1908

**Box 1**

**Folder 8**

Professional Correspondence, October 1908

**Box 1**

**Folder 9**

Professional Correspondence, November 1908

**Box 1**

**Folder 10**

Professional Correspondence, December 1908

**Box 1**

**Folder 11**

Professional Correspondence, January 1909

**Box 1**

**Folder 12**

Professional Correspondence, February-November 1909

**Box 1**

**Folder 13**

Professional Correspondence, 1910

**Box 1**

**Folder 14**

Professional Correspondence, January 1911

**Box 1**

**Folder 15**

Professional Correspondence, February-July 1911

**Box 2**

**Folder 1**

Professional Correspondence, December 1913; January 1915

**Box 2**

**Folder 2**

Professional Correspondence, 1916

**Box 2**

**Folder 3**

Professional Correspondence, February-December 1917

**Box 2**

**Folder 4**

Professional Correspondence, January-April 1918

**Box 2**

**Folder 5**

Professional Correspondence, May 1918

**Box 2**

**Folder 6**

Professional Correspondence, June-December 1918

**Box 2**

**Folder 7**

Professional Correspondence, 1919

**Box 2**

**Folder 8**

Professional Correspondence, 1923-1924

**Box 2**

**Folder 9**

Professional Correspondence, 1925

**Box 2**

**Folder 10**

Professional Correspondence, 1926

**Box 2**

**Folder 11**

Professional Correspondence, 1927-1935

**Box 2**

**Folder 12**

Professional Correspondence, 1936-1944

**Box 2**

**Folder 13**

Professional Correspondence, Undated and fragments

**Series III: Notes and Manuscripts**

**Box 3**

**Folder 1**

Notes on Antinomianism

**Box 3**

**Folder 2**

Notes on the American Revolution

**Box 3**

**Folder 3**

Notes on political parties

**Box 3**

**Folder 4**

Notes on state sovereignty

**Box 3**

**Folder 5**

Notes on Reconstruction

**Box 3**

**Folder 6**

"Education in a Democracy"

**Box 3**

**Folder 7**

"What is Constitutional History?"

**Box 3**

**Folder 8**

"History and Its Neighbors"

**Box 3**

**Folder 9**

"The Need of Political Science"

**Box 3**

**Folder 10**

"Liberty"

**Box 3**

**Folder 11**

"From Spectator to Participant"

**Box 3**

**Folder 12**

"War and Diplomacy"

**Box 3**

**Folder 13**

Lectures connected with the War

**Box 3**

**Folder 14**

Lecture and memorabilia from 1918 British tour

**Box 3**

**Folder 15**

"The League of Nations"

**Box 3**

**Folder 16**

"International Relations after the War"

**Box 4**

**Folder 1**

"The Federal Convention"

**Box 4**



**Folder 2**

"Divided Sovereignty-Binding Compact"

**Box 4**

**Folder 3**

"Outlines of Party History from Hayes to Wilson, 1877-1913"

**Box 4**

**Folder 4**

"The Tariff as a Party Issue"

**Box 4**

**Folder 5**

"The East and the West, the Factory and the Farm"

**Box 4**

**Folder 6**

"Labor"

**Box 4**

**Folder 7**

"The Farmers Movement"

**Box 4**

**Folder 8**

"Money"

**Box 4**

**Folder 9**

"Foreign Affairs: The Monroe Doctrine, 1871-1896"

**Box 4**

**Folder 10**

"Early 20th"

**Box 4**

**Folder 11**

"The Money Question Again-The Income Tax"

**Box 4**

**Folder 12**

"Woman Suffrage and Prohibition"

**Box 4**

**Folder 13**

Constitutional History, Ch. IV "The Writs of Assistance"

**Box 4**

**Folder 14**

Constitutional History, Ch. V "The Stamp Act"

**Box 4**

**Folder 15**

Constitutional History, Ch. VI "After the Stamp Act"

**Box 4**

**Folder 16**

Constitutional History, [Ch. VII] "The Obdurate Parliament"

**Box 4**

**Folder 17**

Constitutional History, Ch. VIII "The Intolerable Acts"

**Box 4**

**Folder 18**

Constitutional History, Ch. IX "The Congress of 1774-1775"

**Box 4**

**Folder 19**

Constitutional History, Ch. X "The Philosophy of the Revolution"

**Box 4**

**Folder 20**

Constitutional History, Ch. XI "Early State Constitutions"

**Box 4**

**Folder 21**

Constitutional History, [Ch. XVII] "The Establishment of the Authority of the Executive in Foreign Affairs"

**Box 4**

**Folder 22**

Constitutional History, [Ch. LI] "Interstate Commerce"

**Box 4**

**Folder 23**

Miscellaneous manuscript fragments

**Box 4**

**Folder 24**

Reviews of ACM's books

**Box 4**

**Folder 25**

Copies of articles by ACM

**Box 4**

**Folder 26**

Copies of articles by ACM.

**Box 4**

**Folder 27**

Obituaries