William Starr Myers Papers, 1877-1974
(bulk 1897-1956): Finding Aid

These papers were processed with an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State.

Summary Information

Call number: MC098
Repository: Princeton University. Library. Dept. of Rare Books and Special Collections
Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library.
Public Policy Papers.
65 Olden Street Princeton, New Jersey 08540 USA
Size: 16.8 linear feet
35 boxes
Language(s) of Material: English
Abstract: William Starr Myers (1877-1954) was a professor of history and politics at Princeton University and a noted historian of New Jersey and the Republican Party. The William Starr Myers Papers document the history of his teaching career and published works.
Location: This collection is stored onsite at the Mudd Manuscript Library.
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Biography/History

William Starr Myers (1877-1954) was a professor of history and politics at Princeton University and a noted historian of New Jersey and the Republican Party. Myers was born in Baltimore on June 17, 1877. He graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1897 and received his PhD in Philosophy from Johns Hopkins in 1900. Myers’ first job after graduation was as Master in History at the Gilman School in Baltimore. In 1906, Woodrow Wilson summoned Myers to Princeton to become a preceptor in history at Princeton University. Myers became a Professor of History and Politics in 1918 and served in that position until he became Professor Emeritus in June 1943.

Myers was a respected historian who published numerous noteworthy books during his career. He often wrote on the subject of contemporary history. Myers became an authority on the history of the Republican Party in the early twentieth century by publishing books such as The Republican Party: A History (1928) and The Hoover Administration (1936). Always active in Republican Party affairs both local and national, Myers eventually became friends with Herbert Hoover and edited a collection of Hoover’s papers and writings. Myers was also a noted New Jersey historian, publishing a history of the state and a history of the Battle of Monmouth. He was instrumental in the campaign to gain National Historic Landmark status for the Princeton Battlefield. Myers was quite active professionally. He served as a lecturer at the Army War College in Washington, D.C. from 1920 to 1940, published regularly in historical journals, and attended and spoke at numerous roundtable conferences. Away from the history profession, Myers was a practicing Episcopalian, serving as president of the board of managers of the Evangelical Education Society for nearly a decade. Myers was also a Trustee of the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation from 1929 to 1931 and a member of the Small Loans Commission of New Jersey from 1931 to 1932.

Description

The William Starr Myers Papers document his teaching career and published works, and include diaries, drafts, notes, lectures, correspondence, printed material, photographs, and scrapbooks. Myers' work as a professor, examples of Myers' professional involvement, and areas of focus are evident throughout the collection. Myers' areas of study include the Republican Party, New Jersey history, and Far East Asian politics. Record of Myers' personal life is evident in his diaries and engagement books and the correspondence with his family.

Please see series descriptions in contents list for additional information about individual series.

Access and Use

Access

This collection is open for research use.

Restrictions on Use and Copyright Information

Single photocopies may be made for research purposes. For quotations that are fair use as defined under U. S. Copyright Law, no permission to cite or publish is required. For those few instances
beyond fair use, researchers are responsible for determining who may hold the copyright and obtaining approval from them. Researchers do not need anything further from the Mudd Library to move forward with their use.

### Acquisition and Appraisal

**Provenance and Acquisition**

The bulk of the collection was donated by Mrs. Margaret Myers in May 1956. The two sketches by J. N. Darling were donated by John Hull McLean in June 1994.

**Appraisal**

Photographic negatives, which had deteriorated, as well as sheet music have been removed.

### Related Materials

**Related Archival Material**

Other material at the Mudd Manuscript Library relating to William Starr Myers can be found within the Princeton University Archives including, the Faculty Off-Prints Collection (AC121), the Lecture Notes Collection (AC052), and Myers' faculty file.

### Processing and Other Information

**Preferred Citation**

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); William Starr Myers Papers, Box and Folder Number; Public Policy Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.

**Works Cited**

Material within William Starr Myers’ faculty file, part of the Princeton University Archives, was consulted during the preparation of this finding aid.

**Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Casey Babcock in October 2007. Finding aid written by Casey Babcock in October 2007.

**Encoding**


**Descriptive Rules Used**

Finding aid content adheres to that prescribed by Describing Archives: A Content Standard.
Subject Headings

- Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.
- Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.
- Princeton University -- Faculty -- 20th century.
- Republican Party (N.J.) -- History.
- Generals -- United States -- 20th century -- Biographies.
- Historians -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
- Political scientists -- New Jersey -- Princeton -- 20th century -- Correspondence.
- New Jersey -- History.
- Princeton Battlefield State Park (N.J.)
- United States -- Politics and government -- 20th century.
- Correspondence.
- Diaries.
- Faculty papers.
- Lectures.
- Manuscripts.
- American history/20th century
- American politics and government
- New Jerseyana
- Princeton University
Series 1: Writings, 1887-1954

Size: 7.92 linear feet
Size: 19 boxes

Description: The Writings Series consists of Myers' personal and professional writings from both his time as a graduate student and his tenure as a professor at Princeton University. The bulk of the documents, including all of the Diaries and Notes subseries and much of the Lectures subseries, are in Myers' hand. Other documents include typescripts and carbons of various Myers monographs, bank account books, and engagement books. This series documents not only Myers day-to-day life, but also his interests and work habits. This is particularly evident in the Notes subseries. Included here are notebooks containing newspapers clippings which were carefully and meticulous maintained by Myers throughout his career. The clippings are accompanied by notes, thoughts, and future ideas for Myers' writings.

Arrangement: The Writings Series is arranged in five subseries: Diaries, Drafts, Lectures, Notes, and Miscellaneous.

Subseries 1A: Diaries, 1887-1953

Size: 1.67 linear feet
Size: 4 boxes

Description: The Diaries Subseries consists of Myers' diaries, which he maintained throughout his life. The diaries serve as evidence of Myers' activities and consist mostly of dates, engagements, and reminders. Myers often gave brief descriptions of his daily activities and offer a glimpse of his work habits and processes. A bulk of the entries are not lengthy. For additional information on Myers' daily activities, please see the engagements books in Subseries 1E: Miscellaneous.

Arrangement: The diaries are arranged chronologically.

1887 January-1891 October  
1891 October-December, 1892, 1891 October-December, 1892  
1893 January-1893 December  
1894 January-1897 December  
1898 January-1902 August 13, 1898 January-1902 August  
1899 June-September  
1902 August 14-1910 May 14  
1910 May 17-1915 December, 1910 May  
1916 January-1920 September  

Box: 1 Folder: 1  
Box: 1 Folder: 2  
Box: 1 Folder: 3  
Box: 1 Folder: 4  
Box: 1 Folder: 5  
Box: 1 Folder: 6  
Box: 2 Folder: 1  
Box: 2 Folder: 2  
Box: 2 Folder: 3
Subseries 1B: Drafts, 1897-1948

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Box: Folder:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1920 October-1923 July 11</td>
<td>3 Folder: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923 July 12-1927 May 3</td>
<td>3 Folder: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927 May 4-1932 May 1</td>
<td>3 Folder: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932 May 2-1936 April 6</td>
<td>3 Folder: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936 April 7-1939 November 27</td>
<td>4 Folder: 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939 November 29-1943 July 20</td>
<td>4 Folder: 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1943 July 25-1951 February 14</td>
<td>4 Folder: 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950 March 15-1953 October 22</td>
<td>4 Folder: 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Subseries 1B: Drafts, 1897-1948

Size: 1.25 linear feet

Size: 3 boxes

Description: The Drafts Subseries consists of several of Myers' monographs in various stages of development. The bulk of the documents are carbons and typescripts. Some rough drafts are also included. Many of the drafts annotated.

Arrangement: The materials in the Drafts Subseries are grouped by book. The groups are arranged alphabetically.

Original Manuscripts, 1897-1900

Original Manuscripts, 1899

The American Government of Today, 1931
  - Chapters 1-5, Typescript, 1931
  - Chapters 6-10, Typescript, 1931
  - Chapters 15-20, Typescript, 1931

Democracy or the New Deal, 1932-1948
  - Carbon Copy, 1938-1948
  - Rough Draft and Carbon Copy, 1938
  - Carbon Copy, 1934
  - Typescript, 1934
  - Rough Draft, 1932-1935
  - Typescript, 1932-1933
  - Miscellaneous, 1932-1935

The Republican Party, A History, Typescript, 1927

The Story of New Jersey, Typescript, 1943
Subseries 1C: Lectures, 1901-1950

Size: 1.67 linear feet
Size: 4 boxes

Description: The Lectures Subseries consists of lectures written and given by Myers while he was a trustee with the Lake Placid Club Education Foundation and professor at Princeton University. The bulk of the documents are not finished lectures but rather notes and materials used by Myers to write the lectures. The majority of the lectures focus on the Republican Party and politics.

Arrangement: The Lectures Subseries is arranged in two groups: Lectures Given at Lake Placid and Princeton University Lectures. Materials in the Lake Placid group are arranged chronologically. Materials in the Princeton group are arranged alphabetically.

Lectures Given at Lake Placid, Notes and Materials, 1903-1950

1903-1938  Box: 8 Folder: 1
1909-1939  Box: 8 Folder: 2
1931-1940  Box: 8 Folder: 3
1931-1949  Box: 8 Folder: 4
1935-1949  Box: 9 Folder: 1
1937-1948  Box: 9 Folder: 2
1939-1950  Box: 9 Folder: 3

Princeton University Lectures, 1901-1950

Notes, 1927-1939  Box: 10 Folder: 1
Notes, 1930-1950  Box: 10 Folder: 2
Notes, 1933-1944  Box: 10 Folder: 3
Notes, Drafts, and Correspondence, 1922-1935  Box: 10 Folder: 4
Printed Lectures, 1923-1940  Box: 10 Folder: 5
Printed Lectures, Drafts, and Notes, 1923-1940  Box: 10 Folder: 6
Miscellaneous, 1901-1939

1901-1918  Box: 10 Folder: 7
1904-1918  Box: 11 Folder: 1
1906-1926  Box: 11 Folder: 2
1908-1921  Box: 11 Folder: 3
1924-1928  Box: 11 Folder: 4
1926-1939  Box: 11 Folder: 5
Subseries 1D: Notes ... (Continued)

1927-1929

Subseries 1D: Notes, 1897-1941

Size: 2.09 linear feet
Size: 5 boxes

Description: The Notes Subseries contains notes written by Myers while he was both a student and professor. Throughout his career as a professor, Myers clipped news stories from the newspaper and collected them in notebooks. The clippings are often annotated and accompanied by Myers' thoughts and ideas. They focus on Republican Party matters, both at the national and state level and were likely used when researching and writing his monographs. Also included in this subseries are Myers' notes from graduate school, taken during history and politics courses.

Arrangement: The Notes Subseries is grouped by subject and arranged chronologically.

Current Events, 1911-1931
- 1915-1916
- 1916-1917
- 1917-1919
- 1919-1920
- 1920-1921
- 1921-1922
- 1924-1927
- 1928-1931
- 1911-1928

Graduate School, 1897 September-1900 February
- 1897 September-October
- 1897 October-November
- 1898 March
- 1898 March-October
- 1899 October-1900 February
- 1898 October
- 1898 November-1899 March
- 1899 March-October

History, 1907-1941
## Subseries 1E: Miscellaneous, 1893-1954

Size: 1.25 linear feet  
Size: 3 boxes  

Description: The Miscellaneous Subseries consists of documents created by Myers during the course of his daily work. The bulk of the material is in the form of account books, documenting his finances, and engagement books, which include a log of his daily appointments. Also include are numerous poems written by Myers and Myers' reviews of works by his peers in the history and political science fields. 

Arrangement: The Miscellaneous Subseries is arranged alphabetically by subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Box: 16 Folder:</th>
<th>Box: 17 Folder:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Class Notes, 1907-1941</td>
<td>1 to 2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English History, 1915-1916</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>English History, undated</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American History, undated</td>
<td>5 to 6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American History, undated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and Account Books, 1893-1946 January 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893-1914</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900-1909</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913 September 18-1917 December 31</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940 January 8-1946 January 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engagement Books, 1909-1954</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909-1919</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920-1929</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930-1939</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940-1949</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950-1954</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry, undated</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews, 1913-1948</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Royalty Statements, 1928-1949</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1876-1948</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1887-1940</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous, 1877-1974</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Series 2: Correspondence, 1881-1955

Size: 2.71 linear feet
Size: 7 boxes

Description: The Correspondence Series consists of letters to and from Myers' family, friends, and colleagues. The bulk of the letters are between Myers and his professional colleagues. Topics discussed include his professorship at Princeton, trips to the Far East, the Princeton Battlefield State Park, and Republican Party affairs, both national and local. Notable correspondents include Herbert Hoover, Woodrow Wilson, and Walter Edge. The correspondence between Myers and his family is often personal in nature.

Arrangement: The Correspondence Series is arranged in two sections: Family and General. Folders are arranged alphabetically by correspondent or subject within the divisions.

Family, 1881-1947

Myers, J. Norris, 1916-1940

Myers, Margaret, 1909-1928

1909-1917

1919-1921

1922 March-April

1922 May

1923-1924

1925

1926-1928

undated

Myers, Reverend Thomas, 1888-1893

Myers, Virginia Starr, 1911-1944

Myers, William Starr, 1885-1942

Starr, Laura Virginia, 1909-1912

Starr, Mrs. L. M, 1881-1882

Unidentified, 1905-1946

Miscellaneous, 1887-1947

Box: 20 Folder: 1

Box: 20 Folder: 2

Box: 20 Folder: 3

Box: 20 Folder: 4

Box: 20 Folder: 5

Box: 20 Folder: 6

Box: 20 Folder: 7

Box: 20 Folder: 8

Box: 21 Folder: 1

Box: 21 Folder: 2

Box: 21 Folder: 3

Box: 21 Folder: 4

Box: 21 Folder: 5

Box: 21 Folder: 6

Box: 21 Folder: 7

Box: 21 Folder: 8

Box: 21 Folder: 9

Box: 21 Folder: 10

Box: 22 Folder: 1
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>C, 1877-1946</td>
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<td>E, 1911-1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>F, 1909-1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>G, 1906-1946</td>
<td>Box: 22 Folder: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ha-Hn, 1909-1944</td>
<td>Box: 22 Folder: 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoover, Herbert, 1928-1934</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoover, Herbert, 1935</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoover, Herbert, 1936-1953</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ho-Hz, 1900-1947</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I, 1918-1956</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>J, 1900-1943</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 6</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>K, 1915-1947</td>
<td>Box: 23 Folder: 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L, 1876-1948</td>
<td>Box: 24 Folder: 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M, 1908-1949</td>
<td>Box: 24 Folder: 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N, 1907-1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>O, 1903-1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>P, 1909-1940</td>
<td>Box: 24 Folder: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton Battlefield, 1944-1945</td>
<td>Box: 24 Folder: 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton University, 1897-1949</td>
<td>Box: 24 Folder: 7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>R, 1905-1948</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Party, 1924-1941</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sa-Sh, 1914-1955</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Si-Sp, 1904-1945</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sq-Sz, 1906-1944</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>T, 1902-1947</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-V, 1902-1919</td>
<td>Box: 25 Folder: 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>W, 1909-1948</td>
<td>Box: 26 Folder: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson, Woodrow, 1906-1915</td>
<td>Box: 26 Folder: 2</td>
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<td>X-Z, 1918-1946</td>
<td>Box: 26 Folder: 3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series 3: Printed Matter, 1877-1956**

Size: 2.83 linear feet
Series 3: Printed Matter ... (Continued)

Size: 4 boxes

Description: The Printed Matter Series includes books, journals, magazines, newspapers, and pamphlets. The bulk of the material was collected by Myers and a number of the journals and magazines contain pieces written by Myers. Many of the newspapers and pamphlets were likely collected for research purposes, as their subjects reflect topics he wrote about.

Arrangement: Some of the material in the Printed Matter Series has been grouped according to subject. For the most part, the original arrangement has been maintained.

| Books, 1901-1952 | Box: 27 Folder: 1 |
| Documents, 1877-1954 | |
| Princeton Battlefield Project, 1899-1946 | Box: 27 Folder: 2 |
| Protestant Evangelical Education Society, 1948-1950 | Box: 27 Folder: 3 |
| Republican Party, 1912-1954 | Box: 27 Folder: 4 |
| Starr Family, Fliers and Programs, 1915-1945 | Box: 27 Folder: 5 |
| Miscellaneous, 1877-1946 | Box: 27 Folder: 6 |
| Miscellaneous, 1907-1949 | Box: 27 Folder: 7 |
| Journals and Magazines, 1900-1956 | Box: 28 |
| Newspapers Clippings, 1907-1956 | |
| Socialist Papers, 1912-1928 | Box: 29 Folder: 1 |
| Miscellaneous, 1907-1946 | Box: 29 Folder: 2 |
| Miscellaneous, 1908-1942 | Box: 29 Folder: 3 |
| Miscellaneous, 1922-1956 | Box: 29 Folder: 4 |
| Pamphlets, 1898-1955 | |
| Education Pamphlets, 1898-1933 | Box: 30 Folder: 1 |
| Evangelical Education Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Annual Reports, 1937-1947 | Box: 30 Folder: 2 |
| Herbert Hoover Pamphlets, 1928-1951 | Box: 30 Folder: 3 |
| Ku Klux Klan Pamphlets, 1924 | Box: 30 Folder: 4 |
| Oxford University Extension Lectures and Summer Meeting Programs, 1899 | Box: 30 Folder: 5 |
| Presidential Campaign Pamphlets, 1928 | Box: 30 Folder: 6 |
| Prohibition Pamphlets, 1924-1932 | Box: 30 Folder: 7 |
| Protestant Episcopal Church Pamphlets, 1936-1949 | Box: 30 Folder: 8 |
| Miscellaneous Pamphlets, 1903-1950 | Box: 30 Folder: 9 |
### Series 4: Photographs, Scrapbooks, and Oversized Posters, 1888-1956

**Size:** 3.13 linear feet  
**Size:** 4 boxes  

**Description:** The Photographs, Scrapbooks, and Oversized Posters Series includes various items collected by Myers. The bulk of the photographs are portraits of Myers, though some are of friends and colleagues. The scrapbooks, which appear to have been compiled by a clippings service, document Myers' entire career. The oversized posters include government notices and cartoons.  

**Arrangement:** The original arrangement was maintained.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myers, William Starr, Photographs, 1920-1940</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Photographs, 1898-1936</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framed Photograph, 1952</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framed Cartoon, undated</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbooks, 1895-1938</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbooks, 1888-1956</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sketch, 1930</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posters and Cartoons, 1915-1935</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 5: Photocopies, Hoover Presidential Library, 1929-1956, 1974

**Size:** 2 linear feet  
**Size:** 1 box  

**Description:** The Photocopies, Hoover Presidential Library Series consists of photocopied William Starr Myers related documents ordered by Princeton's Rare Books and Special Collections department from the Hoover Presidential Library in 1974. Documents included correspondence between Myers and Hoover, along with some of Myers' published work.  

**Arrangement:** The original arrangement was maintained.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Box: 35 Folder:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photocopies of William Starr Myers Related Material, 1929-1956, 1974</td>
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