

THE FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT LIBRARY, INC.  
1600 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK CITY

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

February 9, 1939

Mr. Amon G. Carter,  
Star-Telegram Building,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

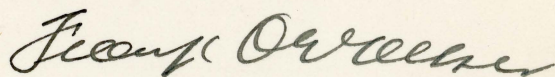
I am sorry indeed that it was not possible for me to attend the Library dinner with you last Saturday evening. From reports I have received from other members of our group, everyone found it to be an interesting and enjoyable affair. I am happy that the President seemed so pleased with the active interest shown and the responsibility assumed by us. The news stories on the dinner were factual in character and I am sending the article from Sunday's New York Herald Tribune in the event you did not see it. The principal background article is the one appearing in the New York Times on December 11th, and I am sending that to you also.

Since our group was designated as a Committee on Ways and Means, it will be up to us to pull the laboring oar so that this job may be done effectively and quickly. I am anxious to obtain many substantial contributions in the shortest possible time, since this will tend to reduce our several continuing responsibilities to see the financial part of this project through. I want to talk to you in detail about this and will be in touch with you very soon.

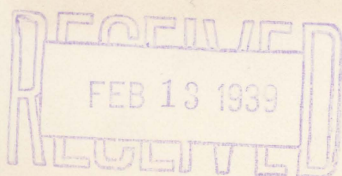
In the meantime, it would help us a great deal if you would think over your acquaintances in the state and send me a list of those that you feel might make substantial contributions or assist you in discharging your share of the responsibility. Upon receipt of your list I will check it against our records and advise you, so that there will be no duplication of effort.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



FRANK C. WALKER  
Treasurer





*N. Y. Herald Tribune*  
*2/5/39*

# Drive Started For Roosevelt Library Fund

## Walker Heads Committee to Seek Gifts to Finance Repository at Hyde Park

*From the Herald Tribune Bureau*

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.—The trustees of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., the organization formed to raise funds to erect on the President's estate at Hyde Park, N. Y., a repository for his state papers, correspondence and private libraries, announced today the formation of a committee to seek private gifts to meet the cost of the building.

The President announced on Dec. 10 that he planned to bequeath the Hyde Park estate to the government and to turn over all his correspondence, state papers and books as the nucleus of a publicly owned collection to be housed in a fireproofed repository at Hyde Park.

Plans for carrying the proposal into effect were discussed tonight at a dinner at the Carlton Hotel which the President attended. Dr. Waldo G. Leland, director of the American Council of Learned Societies and chairman of the executive committee of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Inc., presided.

Frank C. Walker, of New York, was named chairman of the committee to raise funds. Other members are:

Frederick B. Adams, New York; Mrs. George Backer, New York; Bernard M. Baruch, New York; Michael L. Benedum, Pittsburgh; Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, Warsaw, Poland; Adolph Bremer, St. Paul; Otto Bremer, St. Paul; Colvin Brown, New York; Ellsworth Bunker, New York; John J. Burns, New York; George Bye, New York; Amon G. Carter, Fort Worth, Tex.; Frank L. Crocker, New York; James R. Cromwell, Somerville, N. J.; Harvey C. Couch, Pine Bluff, Ark.; Walter Cummings, Chicago; Homer S. Cummings, Washington; Joseph E. Davies, Brussels, Belgium.

Also Marriner S. Eccles, Washington; Silliman Evans, Nashville, Tenn.; John Fahey, Washington; J. W. Flanagan, Toronto, Canada; Edward J. Flynn, New York; J. Paul Getty, Los Angeles; Harvey D. Gibson, New York; John P. Grier, New York; James W. Hanes, Washington; W. Averell Harriman, New York; Col. Joseph M. Hartfield, New York; Will Hays, New York; William Helis, New Orleans; John D. Hertz, New York; Robert W. Johnson, New Brunswick, N. J.; Jesse Jones, Washington; Walter Jones, Pittsburgh.

Also Stanley Kahn, New York; John C. Kelly, New York; J. Bruce Kremer, Washington; Gerard B. Lambert, New York; Breckinridge Long, Washington; Stewart McDonald, Washington; James A. Moffett, New York; Keith Morgan, New York; Henry Morgenthau sr., New York; Ralph W. Morrison, San Antonio, Tex.; Basil O'Connor, New York; Donald Richberg, Chevy Chase, Md.; Lawrence W. Robert jr., Washington; James D. Robinson, Atlanta; Sol Rosenblatt, New York; Louis Rosensteel, New York; Boris Said, New York; Joseph Schenck, New York; Nicholas Schenck, New York; Ben Smith, New York; William Stanley, Washington; Lawrence A. Steinhardt, Lima, Peru; Percy Straus, New York; Nathan Straus jr., Washington; Walter C. Teagle, New York; Thomas J. Watson, New York; Sidney Weinberg, New York.

Dr. Leland said the President's offer of his archives had roused a great deal of interest among scholars. "Most scholars would agree without difficulty that the quarter of a century through which the United States is passing, from the close of the war into the decade of the '40s, is one of the most significant periods of American history," Dr. Leland said.

"Consequently, the proposal of the President to establish, under public control, exercised by the national archives, what is undoubtedly the key collection for the study of this most recent period, is particularly welcome to all students of American history. If, as seems likely, the President's collections should attract other related collections, such as the papers of members of his administration, there would soon be accumulated a body of material such as does not exist anywhere else, and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library would become one of the chief centers of research in contemporary history in the United States."



# ROOSEVELT ESTATE TO HOUSE ARCHIVES, GO TO PUBLIC LATER

President Wants Papers Kept  
Intact at Hyde Park—To Leave  
Property to Government

A REPOSITORY IS FAVORED  
*My Times 12/11/38*  
Fund to Build One Will Have  
Writing Fees as Nucleus—  
Historians Back Idea

*President Roosevelt's statement  
is printed on Page 49.*

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—President Roosevelt announced today that he would preserve intact for posterity all his correspondence, public papers, pamphlets and books, as well as his private collection of books, pamphlets, prints and other valuable source material for historians in a special archives building on the family estate at Hyde Park.

Title to the material will be vested in the Federal Government, and the collection will be open to scholars and the public on the estate, which after Mr. Roosevelt's death will be given to the Federal Government for the benefit of the public. The President's mother, Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt, already has approved the plan for eventual reversion of the estate to the government.

The property includes the family mansion and about 100 acres of grounds. The President's farm of 500 acres near by, which is being developed as a forest preserve, will not, however, be included in the gift of the estate to the government. The estate proper which will go to the government in time has been unofficially estimated to have a value of close to \$250,000.

## Historians Endorse Plan

Mr. Roosevelt announced the two-fold plan personally at a special press conference in his oval study on the second floor of the White House after a long luncheon conference with eighteen historians and publicists who endorsed the project enthusiastically.

"I realize," Mr. Roosevelt said in his statement, "that the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the New York State Library, Harvard University and the New York State Historical Society would probably be glad to have the whole collection intact. It is my thought, however, that an opportunity exists to set up for the first time in this country what might be called a source-material collection relating to a specific period in our history.

"That part of my family's country place at Hyde Park on which we live will, without doubt, eventually go to the Federal Government to be maintained for the benefit of the public by the Federal Government."

In stating that his mother approved, he said:

"It is my hope that during my lifetime I will continue to live in the family home at Hyde Park, and if a period collection of this kind is permanently domiciled on what is my own place, I will be able to give assistance to the maintenance of the collection during my lifetime."

## No Political Hint Is Given

While the President's attitude was felt by some of the newspaper group to indicate that he was preparing to conclude his affairs and step out of the White House for good in 1941 without seeking a third term, his words carried no such significance. Some of the more politically minded correspondents asked him how he came to decide upon the plan.

Clearly sensing what was behind the question, Mr. Roosevelt laughed and replied with utter ease that he had been considering seriously what to do with his collection for the last three or four years.

Those who attended the luncheon immediately started discussing a campaign of public subscription to provide the necessary funds for erecting the building and administering the use of the collection.

The fund will have as its nucleus, Mr. Roosevelt announced, the net proceeds that he has received from his writings of books and special articles, as well as the money received by Samuel I. Rosenman, justice of the Supreme Court of New York, who edited Mr. Roosevelt's five-volume series of official Presidential papers.

The President said that he could not estimate how much this would amount to until he knew more about deductions on account of his

Continued on Page Forty-nine



# ROOSEVELT ESTATE TO HOUSE ARCHIVES

Continued From Page One

income tax. Nor was he prepared to estimate how much money would be required to finance the entire project.

The subscription campaign will be directed by Frank Walker of New York, former chairman of the National Emergency Council and close friend of the President. Today's luncheon group will help and will increase its membership by adding historians, sociologists, economists and others willing to assist.

## First Project of Its Kind

The President explained that he decided to keep the material intact only after consulting historians. His decision means that for the first time a President, on leaving the White House, will maintain his files intact, and from the moment they are moved away they will be kept under public control.

Mr. Roosevelt's idea is even broader, however, for it is his hope, he explained, that others in his Administrations at Washington, and also at Albany when he was Governor, will in time contribute their own material to swell the collection into a full-rounded set of source material of the present historical period.

Mr. Roosevelt has made an early start, for his collection dates from 1910. It contains all his correspondence of the last twenty-eight years, public papers, pamphlets and books. It includes all incoming material and copies of virtually all outgoing material. It covers his services as a member of the New York State Senate and in the Executive Mansion in Albany, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as well as his two trips to Europe during the World War, business and legal correspondence and political material covering his campaigns for the Vice Presidency and the Presidency, national political conventions and other activities.

In addition there are his naval papers, books and prints that he has gradually acquired, as well as a considerable amount of material bearing upon the history of the Hudson River region. He also has about three-fourths of the books that have been written concerning his national administration. These have been given to him by the authors and he hopes to make this collection complete.

However, Mr. Roosevelt's records do not contain a diary.

Asked whether he had kept one,

he laughed and replied that three times on the first day of January he had started one, kept it for three or four days and then abandoned the effort.

## Sixty Cases in Albany Alone

To show the volume of his papers and books Mr. Roosevelt said that in Albany alone he has sixty packing cases filled with material. Here and at Hyde Park and in his New York home he has about 15,000 books in all. His naval records include about 5,000 pamphlets that he knows of definitely, while other naval records are in his files.

To assure proper annotation and administration of the collection at Hyde Park Mr. Roosevelt, after he retires and takes up his residence on the family estate, will not only give his personal attention to it but he has specified that the collection shall be under the primary responsibility of the Archivist of the United States to assure permanent care and adequate facilities, and it will be under the supervision of a committee of historians working in cooperation with the Archivist and the Librarian of Congress.

Title to the building to be erected at Hyde Park will be vested at once in the Federal Government. How large this building will be Mr. Roosevelt was not prepared to say. However, he did state that it probably would be one story high, of simple design conforming to the architectural style of other buildings on the estate, and probably constructed of fieldstone. It will be fireproofed and air-conditioned for the protection of the collection.

Not only for the first time will a President's personal collection remain intact when he leaves the White House, but it will be the largest collection of its kind. Although President Hoover took care to preserve his records, Mr. Roosevelt stated that the volume of his mail alone was ten times what Mr. Hoover had in the White House. Mr. Hoover, he said, averaged 400 letters a day, while his own average has been around 4,000.

Most of his predecessors in the Presidency, Mr. Roosevelt recalled at his press conference, had been careless, or their families had, so that much of value to historians and students had been lost. Theodore Roosevelt preserved papers and records in a storage vault at Oyster Bay, but the collection does not begin to equal the present one.

## Historian Laments Losses

The historians at today's luncheon were keenly alive to this fact and to the value of President Roosevelt's plan. Professor Samuel Morison of Harvard emphasized this when introduced to the correspondents by the President for a few explanations. He said that the

luncheon group was 100 per cent for it, and realized the losses that had occurred in the past and the mutilation that Presidential papers and records had suffered.

Some of the Presidents themselves, in the years after they left the White House, threw away material, considering it of little value. Their families spoiled other papers, children played with them, rats gnawed at them, and so it went, a sad story for the historian. After two or three generations, when the families gave the papers to the Library of Congress, much had been lost.

The papers of Washington, Madison, Cleveland and some other Presidents, Professor Morison pointed out, were in the Library of Congress, but the Lincoln papers were scattered in many depositories to the confusion of historians.

Since John Adams, he added, Presidents had taken their papers with them from the White House, but those of John Adams and John Quincy Adams are in a vault in Boston. When he said that to this day these papers can be seen only by members of the Adams family, he surprised even President Roosevelt, who interjected that he never knew that before.

The conference was then broken up, when Mrs. Roosevelt hurriedly entered and in a low voice told the President that he was overdue for the presentation of a new piano to the White House.

## Those at the Luncheon

Those who attended the luncheon were:

William E. Dodd, former Ambassador to Germany, Round Hill, Va.  
Frank P. Graham, president University of North Carolina.  
Archibald M. MacLeish, writer, Farmington, Conn.  
Randolph G. Adams, librarian, University of Michigan.  
Edmund E. Day, president Cornell University.  
R. D. W. Connor, archivist of the United States, Washington, D. C.  
Alexander C. Flick, State historian, Albany, N. Y.  
Charles A. Beard, educator, New Milford, Conn.  
Felix Frankfurter, Cambridge, Mass.  
Stuart Chase, Labor Bureau, New York.  
Samuel I. Rosenman, Justice of the Supreme Court of New York.  
Ernest Lindley, writer, Washington, D. C.  
Frederic L. Paxson, president American Historical Association, University of California.  
Julian P. Boyd, director Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.  
Mrs. Helen Taft Manning, dean Bryn Mawr College.  
Miss Marguerite M. Wells, president League of Women Voters, Washington, D. C.  
Samuel Morison, Harvard University.  
Frank Walker, New York.