

Collection #  
M 0640

**CHRISTOPHER BUSH COLEMAN  
PAPERS, 1907-1944**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

<b>VOLUME OF COLLECTION:</b>	5 manuscript boxes, 1 photograph folder
<b>COLLECTION DATES:</b>	1907-1944
<b>PROVENANCE:</b>	Indiana Historical Society records, 1993
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<b>ALTERNATE FORMATS:</b>	None
<b>RELATED HOLDINGS:</b>	None
<b>ACCESSION NUMBER:</b>	1994.0081
<b>NOTES:</b>	

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Christopher Bush Coleman (1875-1944) was born in Springfield, Illinois. His grandfather, Stephen T. Logan, had been a law partner of Abraham Lincoln; on another side of his family he was related to William Henry Harrison. Coleman attended Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, graduating in 1892, and Yale University, graduating in 1896. He later earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree at the University of Chicago (1899) and a Ph. D. degree from Columbia University (1914). He married Juliet Brown in 1901 and they had three daughters.

In 1901 Coleman became professor of history at Butler College in Indianapolis, holding the position until 1919. During seven of those years he was also vice president of the college. In 1909 he began a long association with Indiana Historical Society by becoming its corresponding secretary.

From 1920 to 1924 Coleman was head of the Department of History and Political Science at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. Particularly during those years, he showed the interest in religion that continued through his life, giving several talks in the college chapel. Another religious subject on which he published was the Donation of Constantine.

Coleman returned to Indianapolis in 1924 to become head of the Indiana Historical Bureau and then also of Indiana Historical Society. For twenty years, until his death, he was a chief spokesman for history in the state. Far from getting bogged down in administrative detail, he was constantly writing and looking for new problems and fields of research. In addition to his constant speaking and writing, he was active in preserving the J. F. D. Lanier house in Madison, in reconstructing the Whitewater Canal at Metamora, in setting up a George Rogers Clark Memorial at Vincennes, and in erecting the Indiana State Library and Historical Building in Indianapolis. In addition to his many other duties, he was acting director of the Indiana State Library from 1936 to 1942.

Coleman was also active in All Souls Unitarian Church and the Contemporary Club and Indianapolis Literary Club, and in national organizations such as Phi Beta Kappa, the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, and the American Historical Association.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection, filling five manuscript boxes, contains mainly the texts of speeches and papers, along with some correspondence, clippings, notes, and published articles.

Transferred from the records of the Indiana Historical Society which Coleman headed for twenty years, the collection has been kept in the original rough alphabetical order, which seems to show something of how Coleman's mind worked. This order may create a certain amount of confusion, since some papers and speeches are filed by title, while others are under "Papers," "Speeches," "Speeches and Papers," and "Addresses." Some folders follow successive versions of the same paper, from pencil draft through several typescripts to published article. The collection concludes with three portrait photographs of Coleman.

The box and folder listing which follows is probably the best description which can be made of the collection.

## CONTENTS

### Box 1: Obituaries and Condolences; Papers A to F

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Obituaries and condolences	Box 1, Folder 1
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Obituaries and condolences	Box 1, Folder 3
American Peace Award-- "A Practicable Plan"	Box 1, Folder 4
Archival Administration	Box 1, Folder 5
Articles, printed	Box 1, Folder 6
"Ave atque Vale" <i>Library Occurrent</i> 1942	Box 1, Folder 7
"Beginnings of Christianity"	Box 1, Folder 8
Bibliography	Box 1, Folder 9
Book reviews	Box 1, Folder 10
Book reviews	Box 1, Folder 11
Books-- miscellaneous	Box 1, Folder 12
"Butler College and Education"	Box 1, Folder 13
"The Capital of Indiana"	Box 1, Folder 14
Centennial Calendar	Box 1, Folder 15
"Christian Movements in American Colleges"	Box 1, Folder 16
CBC-- personal	Box 1, Folder 17
Commerce and Industry-- college course	Box 1, Folder 18
"County Historical Societies" 1937	Box 1, Folder 19
Contemporary Club	Box 1, Folder 20

DAR	Box 1, Folder 21
"Education as an Escape"	Box 1, Folder 22
"Our Foreign Policy"	Box 1, Folder 23
"Foundations of Prosperity and Depression in Indiana" 1935	Box 1, Folder 24
Future work not now under way	Box 1, Folder 25

## **Box 2: Papers G to I**

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Historic highways of the Midwest	Box 2, Folder 4
Historical material, hidden from contemporaries, coming out later	Box 2, Folder 5
Historical societies and schools	Box 2, Folder 6
History and historians since the War	Box 2, Folder 7
Implications regarding history as a science	Box 2, Folder 8
"In essentials, unity..." 1907	Box 2, Folder 9
"In Letters" Grace Julian Clarke 1936	Box 2, Folder 10
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"Indiana Bibliography" 1915	Box 2, Folder 20
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Indianapolis-- broadcast 1935	Box 2, Folder 23

### **Box 3: Papers J to P**

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John Law	Box 3, Folder 2
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Lafayette's account of American privations	Box 3, Folder 4
"Life and Letters" Phi Beta Kappa 1930	Box 3, Folder 5
Lincoln	Box 3, Folder 6
"The Lincoln Legend" 1937	Box 3, Folder 7
Lincoln hearthstone-- radio address 1934	Box 3, Folder 8
"The Making of a Modern American Poet" [Vachel Lindsay] 1921	Box 3, Folder 9
Marshall County Historical Society 1938	Box 3, Folder 10
Memorial Day address-- Purdue 1929	Box 3, Folder 11
Milligan case	Box 3, Folder 12

Miscellaneous papers-- CBC	Box 3, Folder 13
Miscellaneous notes-- great collections	Box 3, Folder 14
Losses to history which would have been prevented by an historical spirit	Box 3, Folder 15
"New World Builders" introduction 1937	Box 3, Folder 16
Notes	Box 3, Folder 17
"The Ohio Valley and the Preliminaries of the War of 1812", 1920	Box 3, Folder 18
Oil	Box 3, Folder 19
Primitive Society	Box 3, Folder 20
Paper- The Church, the College, and the Public	Box 3, Folder 21
Paper- Direct Primaries	Box 3, Folder 22
Paper- Educational Ideals	Box 3, Folder 23
Paper- Historical study	Box 3, Folder 24
Papers- Religious	Box 3, Folder 25
Paper- The Ohio River as Artery and Boundary	Box 3, Folder 26
Paper- The Old Northwest	Box 3, Folder 27
Paper- Old Folks Day 1934	Box 3, Folder 28
"Preservation of Local War Material" 1943	Box 3, Folder 29
"The Preservation of the Past" 1928	Box 3, Folder 30

**Box 4: Papers Q to T**

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Relation of State and Local Historical Societies to American Historical Association	Box 4, Folder 3
Religious talks	Box 4, Folder 4
Religious talks	Box 4, Folder 5
Joseph T. Robinson	Box 4, Folder 6
The Round Table and others	Box 4, Folder 7
"Salient Features of American Christianity"	Box 4, Folder 8
Speeches-- early	Box 4, Folder 9
Speeches-- early	Box 4, Folder 10
Speeches	Box 4, Folder 11
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Speeches and papers	Box 4, Folder 15
Addresses	Box 4, Folder 16
Addresses	Box 4, Folder 17
Speeches-- projected	Box 4, Folder 18
"State and Local Historical Societies"	Box 4, Folder 19
"The Two Americas"	Box 4, Folder 20
"The Two Americas"	Box 4, Folder 21

**Box 5: Papers U to Z; Photographs**

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"Unity in History" Indiana History Conference 1933	Box 5, Folder 1

"Unrecognized Religious Changes" 1908	Box 5, Folder 2
Unscientific historical work afterwards exploded	Box 5, Folder 3
Unsolved historical problems	Box 5, Folder 4
"Lorenzo Valla and The Treatise on the Donation of Constantine"	Box 5, Folder 5
Vincennes Memorial dedication 1936	Box 5, Folder 6
George Washington	Box 5, Folder 7
"Washington and the West"	Box 5, Folder 8
Charles R. Williams	Box 5, Folder 9
James Douglas Williams	Box 5, Folder 10
3 portraits of Coleman	Visual Collection: Photograph, Folder 1