

**Collection #  
M 0717**

**R. CARLYLE BULEY  
PAPERS, CA. 1924–1963**

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Processed by

Chris Harter  
14 July 1998

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Manuscripts and Archives Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	9 manuscript boxes, 5 shoeboxes, 1 black and white photograph folder, 1 acetate negatives folder
COLLECTION DATES:	ca. 1924–63
PROVENANCE:	Unknown
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	M 0005, R. Carlyle Buley Papers, 1950–1968
ACCESSION NUMBER:	0000.0188
NOTES:	

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Roscoe Carlyle (R. Carlyle) Buley (1893–1968), the son of David M. and Nora (Keithley) Buley, was born in Georgetown, Indiana. He graduated from Indiana University in 1914, and received his M.A. from IU in 1916. Buley married Esther Giles in 1919. After her death in 1921, he married Evelyn Barnett. He taught high school history at Delphi and Muncie, Indiana, and Springfield, Illinois, before earning a Ph.D. at Wisconsin in 1925. Buley was a professor of history at Indiana University (1925–64) before becoming emeritus professor (1964–68).

Buley authored numerous articles, reviews, and books. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1951 for his two-volume study, *The Old Northwest: Pioneer Period 1815–1840*, which was published by the Indiana Historical Society. He also won the Elizur Wright Award for *The American Life Convention: Study in the History of Life Insurance*.

### Sources:

Material in the collection.

*Who Was Who in America*, Vol. 5, p. 98.

*Current Biography* (1951), p. 74.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of correspondence and research material relating to R. Carlyle Buley, particularly his efforts to publish his two-volume study, *The Old Northwest: Pioneer Period 1815–1840*. The material is arranged accordingly to format, then chronologically.

The correspondence (1928–52) begins with letters written to Buley while he was the business manager of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. However, the majority of the correspondence relates to Buley's search for a publisher for *The Old Northwest*, the publication of the work by the Indiana Historical Society, and Buley receiving the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1951. Publishing houses that Buley communicated with include: Arthur H. Clark Company, Atlantic Monthly Press, Bobbs-Merrill Company, Houghton-Mifflin Co., McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., Macmillan Company, University of Chicago Press, Viking Press, Inc., and Whittlesey House

After the Indiana Historical Society's decision to publish *The Old Northwest* in April 1949, Buley's correspondence contains many letters to and from Howard H. Peckham, secretary of the society, Haddon Craftsmen, the company that printed the work, and The Towers, Inc., the primary distributor outside of Indiana. Beginning in May 1951, after Buley was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, the correspondence centers on congratulatory letters.

A list of principal correspondents follows, along with date ranges of their letters. They include: Paul McClelland Angle (1944, 1948–50), David Laurance Chambers (1947–48), Margaret Louise Coit (1951), Rev. Frederick Irving Kuhns (1945–46, 1951), Philip Dillon Jordan (1951; See also: M 0005, R. Carlyle Buley Papers), Eli Lilly (1950–51; See also: M 184, Eli Lilly Papers), Josiah Kirby Lilly (1950), Stanley McCrory Pargellis (1944–50), Howard Henry Peckham (1949–51), Milo Milton Quaife (1944–51), Clark F. Ray (1946, 1949–51), William Marven Reser (1931), Lorenz G. Schumm (1951; See also: M 249, Lorenz G. Schumm Papers), Gayle Thornbrough (1949–50), Roy A. and M. Pat Tower (1950–51), and Herman B. Wells (1944, 1951).

Following the correspondence are various drafts of *The Old Northwest*. A number series (1 through 3) was assigned to the drafts during the processing of the collection in an effort to provide a chronology to the different drafts. The third draft is complete and contains few corrections.

Other material relating to Buley's work on *The Old Northwest* includes a copy of a lithograph and photographic negatives used as illustrations, notes, prepublication reviews, criticisms and comments from various individuals, and photographs of Buley used as Pulitzer Prize publicity. Newspaper/magazine clippings and printed items mostly concern the publication of Buley's work and his acceptance of the Pulitzer.

Also present in the collection are notes and manuscripts of undetermined authorship, although they were probably written by Buley or used by him for research. A series of five shoeboxes containing Buley's research and lecture notes completes the collection.

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### **Series 1: Correspondence**

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