

# CHRISTOPHER BUSH COLEMAN PAPERS, 1907-1944

---

Collection #  
M 640

---

## Table of Contents

[User Information](#)  
[Biographical Sketch](#)  
[Scope and Content Note](#)  
[Box and Folder Listing](#)  
[Cataloguing Information](#)

Processed by  
Charles Latham  
17 December 1993

---

## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 manuscript boxes (2 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: 1907-1944

PROVENANCE: Indiana Historical Society records, 1993

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 94.0081

---

## 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

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.

---

## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

### **Box 1: Obituaries and condolences; Papers A to F** **Folder**

1-3 Obituaries and condolences

4 American Peace Award-- "A Practicable Plan"

5 Archival Administration

- 6 Articles, printed
- 7 "Ave atque Vale" *Library Occurrent* 1942
- 8 "Beginnings of Christianity"
- 9 Bibliography
- 10-11 Book reviews
- 12 Books-- miscellaneous
- 13 "Butler College and Education"
- 14 "The Capital of Indiana"
- 15 Centennial Calendar
- 16 "Christian Movements in American Colleges"
- 17 CBC-- personal
- 18 Commerce and Industry-- college course
- 19 "County Historical Societies" 1937
- 20 Contemporary Club
- 21 DAR
- 22 "Education as an Escape"
- 23 "Our Foreign Policy"
- 24 "Foundations of Prosperity and Depression in Indiana" 1935
- 25 Future work not now under way

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

- 1 Great historians and great historical work
- 2 Historical revival in the Midwest
- 3 John Hay
- 4 Historic highways of the Midwest
- 5 Historical fables
- 6 Historical material, hidden from contemporaries, coming out later
- 7 Historical societies and schools
- 8 History and historians since the War

9 Implications regarding history as a science

10 "In essentials, unity..." 1907

11 "In Letters" Grace Julian Clarke 1936

12 Indiana 1939

13-14 Indiana 1940

15-17 Indiana

18 Indiana history

19 Indiana and local history-- work under way

20 Indiana and local history-- course records

21 "Indiana Bibliography" 1915

22 Indiana history-- extension course

23 Indiana religious

24 Indianapolis-- broadcast 1935

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

1-2 John Law

3 Justice

4 Lafayette's account of American privations

5 "Life and Letters" Phi Beta Kappa 1930

6 Lincoln

7 "The Lincoln Legend" 1937

8 Lincoln hearthstone-- radio address 1934

9 "The Making of a Modern American Poet" [Vachel Lindsay] 1921

10 Marshall County Historical Society 1938

11 Memorial Day address-- Purdue 1929

12 Milligan case

13 Miscellaneous papers-- CBC

14 Miscellaneous notes-- great collections

15 Losses to history which would have been prevented by an historical spirit

- 16 "New World Builders" introduction 1937
- 17 Notes
- 18 "The Ohio Valley and the Preliminaries of the War of 1812", 1920
- 19 Oil
- 20 Primitive Society
- 21 Paper- The Church, the College, and the Public
- 22 Paper- Direct Primaries
- 23 Paper- Educational Ideals
- 24 Paper- Historical study
- 25 Papers- Religious
- 26 Paper- The Ohio River as Artery and Boundary
- 27 Paper- The Old Northwest
- 28 Paper- Old Folks Day 1934
- 29 "Preservation of Local War Material" 1943
- 30 "The Preservation of the Past" 1928

**Box 4: Papers Q to T  
Folder**

- 1 "Quackery in Religion" 1906
- 2 Recovery of lost papers etc.
- 3 Relation of State and Local Historical Societies to American Historical Association
- 4-5 Religious talks
- 6 Joseph T. Robinson
- 7 The Round Table and others
- 8 "Salient Features of American Christianity"
- 9-10 Speeches-- early
- 11-14 Speeches
- 15 Speeches and papers
- 16-17 Addresses
- 18 Speeches-- projected

19 "State and Local Historical Societies"

20-21 "The Two Americas"

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

1 "Unity in History" Indiana History Conference 1933

2 "Unrecognized Religious Changes" 1908

3 Unscientific historical work afterwards exploded

4 Unsolved historical problems

5 "Lorenzo Valla and The Treatise on the Donation of Constantine"

6 Vincennes Memorial dedication 1936

7 George Washington

8 "Washington and the West"

9 Charles R. Williams

10 James Douglas Williams

11(VC) 3 portraits of Coleman

---

**CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: Coleman, Christopher Bush, 1875-1944

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Coleman, Christopher Bush, 1875-1944--Pictorial works

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Law practice

Clark, George Rogers, 1752-1818--Monuments

Indiana Historical Society--Archives

Butler College

Historians--Indiana--Indianapolis

History--Research--Indiana

History--Societies, etc.

Speeches, addresses, etc., American--Indiana

Religion--History

Monuments--Indiana--Vincennes

Indiana--History

Indiana--History--Societies, etc.

Indiana--Religion

END