

# MCLEAN, ROSS HANLIN, 1888-1977.

## Ross Hanlin McLean papers, 1905-1977

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
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### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** McLean, Ross Hanlin, 1888-1977.  
**Title:** Ross Hanlin McLean papers, 1905-1977  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 550  
**Extent:** 11.25 linear ft. (24 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Papers of history professor Ross Hanlin McLean, including correspondence, diaries, printed material, photographs, and memorabilia.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### Administrative Information

#### Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

#### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### Source

Gift, 1976, with subsequent additions.

#### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Ross Hanlin McLean papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

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### Collection Description

#### Biographical Note

Ross Hanlin McLean (November 3, 1888 - July 10, 1977), long time faculty member of the History Department at Emory University was the eldest son of Daniel N. McLean and Bianca Hanlin McLean. He and his three siblings were born in Wellsville, Ohio where his family were prominent citizens in both the business and civic realms of the upper Ohio valley. Their father

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founded the family business, McLean Funeral Parlor, with his brother, Phillip A. McLean, in 1881.

Ross H. McLean began his formal education at Cornell University where he earned his A.B. degree in the Classics in 1911. After he completed his studies, he became a post graduate assistant and instructed classes in ancient and modern history. He moved on to another teaching position at the University of Michigan in 1913 and taught English and European history for four years. The first World War suspended his teaching activities over the course of the following three years. He entered the Army in 1917 and served with the historical branch of the general staff at the Army War College and a variety of other branches in this country and abroad. He returned to the United States at the end of his service in 1919 and resumed teaching by accepting a position as assistant professor of history at Emory University.

When Ross H. McLean came to Emory in 1919, the college had just moved from Oxford, Georgia, to Atlanta where its title changed from Emory College to Emory University. He and Dr. Theodore Jack were the only members of the History Department at that time. The two men divided the course load between them with Dr. Jack supervising the American history courses and Ross H. McLean instructing the European and English history courses. He resumed his education at the University of Michigan where he received his A.M. degree in 1920 and his Ph.D. degree in 1925. In the summer of 1926, he went abroad and studied international organization in Europe as a member of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

During his years at Emory, Dr. McLean saw a steady advancement of his professional standing as a professor. In 1920, he was promoted to associate professor and again in 1925 to a full professor, following the completion of his graduate studies. He advanced to senior professor in 1933; and in 1941, he was named Chairman of the History Department. He served in this capacity until 1948, but remained on the faculty for another nine years. Dr. McLean contributed to the establishment of several of Emory's campus organizations. He founded the International Relations Club in 1921 and served as its faculty advisor. He played a major role in the establishment of the Student Lecture Association in 1922, and he was faculty advisor until 1944 or 1945. In addition, he helped to organize the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter at the university.

Dr. McLean's personal scholarship tended to reflect his interest in modern history. He published articles and book reviews for various historical journals, and acted as co-editor and advisor for other historian's publications. Listings of Dr. McLean's works may be found in the Emory University's Biographical File and in the card catalog in this department. Dr. McLean met his future wife, May M. Bruckheiser, while they were both students at Cornell University. She was a native of Baltimore, Maryland, and graduated from Cornell in 1912. The couple married six years later on 9 September 1918. Like her husband, Mrs. McLean spent her professional career as an educator. She was an instructor at the old Girls High School for three years. She then transferred to the old Bass Junior High School where she for taught for seventeen years and was director of the Mathematics Department. Mrs. McLean died in 1960. The couple had no children. After 38 years of service, Dr. McLean retired from Emory in September, 1957 and was named Professor Emeritus. His colleagues created a fund in his honor to provide an annual award to the best first year graduate student in history. After the death of Mrs. McLean, the award was entitled the Ross H. and May B. McLean Prize. Dr. McLean died in a nursing home in Salem, Ohio on 10 July 1977.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of papers of Ross Hanlin McLean from 1905-1975. The papers include correspondence, diaries, photographs, personal memorabilia, and printed material. The correspondence consists of letters of a general nature (1910-1975) relating to McLean's life prior and subsequent to his arrival at Emory and his association with other historians and schools. Correspondence also includes family letters (1907-1967) mainly written to and from his wife, May B. McLean, and his mother, Bianca H. McLean, and covering McLean's days as a student at Cornell and Michigan; his army service, and his appointment at Emory. The diaries (1905-1945) trace McLean's remembrances of his high school days in Wellsville, Ohio, to the end of his service as chairman of the history department at Emory and are extensive in their coverage of campus life and history of the university and social activity in Atlanta Ga. The collection also includes genealogical material concerning the McLean family, collected writings, pamphlets, and newspaper clippings.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into five series: (1) General correspondence, (2) Family correspondence, (3) Diaries, (4) Photographs, (5) Personal memorabilia, and (6) Printed material.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: General correspondence, 1910-1975](#)

[Series 2: Family correspondence, 1917-1967](#)

[Series 3: Diaries, 1905-1949](#)

[Series 4: Photographs, 1916-1946 and undated](#)

[Series 5: Personal memorabilia, 1827-1971](#)

[Series 6: Printer material, 1914-1977](#)

**Series 1**  
**General correspondence, 1910-1975**  
**Boxes 1 - 4**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 1, General Correspondence (1910-1975), are letters of both a professional and personal nature which relate to Dr. McLean's experiences prior and subsequent to his arrival at Emory, and his association with other historians and schools. Specifically, the earlier letters document his student and instructor years at Cornell and Michigan, his army service and his membership in the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The topics of other correspondence range from his work with state and national historical societies, various campus organizations such as the Student Lecture Association, to his teaching assignments at different institutions. The series also includes letters from former students about their military service during World War II and their future scholarship.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in chronological order.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	1910-1911, 1913, 1915-1917
1	2	1918-1919
1	3	1920, 1923-29
1	4	1930-1933
1	5	1934
1	6	1935-1936
1	7	1937 January-March 18
1	8	1937 March 30-December
1	9	1938
1	10	1939 January-September 17
1	11	1939 September 22-December
2	1	1940 January-September
2	2	1940 October-1941 September
2	3	1941 October-1942 February
2	4	1941 March-May 20
2	5	1941 May 21-July 14
2	6	1941 July 16-September 30
2	7	1941 September 30-November 25
2	8	1941 November 26-1943 February 14
2	9	1943 February 16-August 9
2	10	1943 August 10-1944 May
2	11	1944 June-November 28
3	1	1944 November 29-1945 April

3	2	1945 May-December
3	3	1946 January-March
3	4	1946 May-July
3	5	1946 August-December
3	6	1947 January-June 8
3	7	1947 June 16-December
3	8	1948-1949
3	9	1950-1951
3	10	1952
3	11	1953
3	12	1954-1955
3	13	1956-1958
3	14	1959
3	15	1960-1961
3	16	1961-1963
4	1	1964-1967 May
4	2	1967 July-November
4	3	1967 December-1971
4	4	1972, 1974-1975
4	5	undated
4	6	Christmas cards

**Series 2**  
**Family correspondence, 1917-1967**  
**Boxes 5 - 11**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 2, Family Correspondence (1907-1967), includes letters to and from May B. McLean (wife) during the time of their courtship at Cornell University, and his service in the Army after their marriage. The bulk of the correspondence is letters to and from Bianca H. McLean (mother). They cover Dr. McLean's days as a student at Cornell and Michigan, his army service, and his appointment at Emory.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by author; then in chronological order.

**Ross H. McLean to May B. McLean (wife), 1917-1919**

Box	Folder	Content
5	1	1917-1918 February 14
5	2	1918 February 18-March 18
5	3	1918 March 20-July 19
5	4	1918 July 15-October 9
5	5	1918 October 10-November 15
5	6	1918 November 19-December 8
5	7	1918 December 9-1919 February, undated

**May B. McLean (wife) Ross H. McLean, [1910?] -1931**

5	8	[1910?]-1917 November
5	9	1918 October 2-October 16
5	10	1918 October 20-November 10
5	11	1918 November 13 -November 29, 1931 July 25, August 6

**Ross H. McLean to Bianca H. McLean (mother), 1907-1927**

6	1	1907, and undated
6	2	1908 January-May
6	3	1908 October-February 10
6	4	1909 February 21-1910 February
6	5	1910 March-September
6	6	1910 October-1911 January 9
6	7	1911 January 14-March 19
6	8	1911 March 22-June 12
6	9	1911 June 12-October
6	10	1912 January-April
7	1	1912 September-October

7	2	1912 November-1913 February
7	3	1913 March-July
7	4	1913 August-December
7	5	1914 January-1915 May
7	6	1915 Jul-1916 November
7	7	1917 January-April
7	8	1917 May - June 14
7	9	1917 August-September 5
7	10	1917 September 16 -October
8	1	1917 November-December
8	2	1918 January-March 8
8	3	1918 March 15 -April 13
8	4	1918 April 20-May
8	5	1918 June
8	6	1918 August-September
8	7	1918 October-December, and undated
8	8	1919 January-March
8	9	1919 April- 1920 May
8	10	1920 July-December 13
8	11	1920 December 28-1921 August
9	1	1921 September-December
9	2	1922 January-May
9	3	1922 July-October
9	4	1922 November-1923 July
9	5	1923 September-1924 March
9	6	1924 May-December
9	7	1925 January-June
9	8	1925 July-December
9	9	1926 May-1927 February
9	10	1927 March-August

**Correspondence of Bianca H. McLean and Daniel N. McLean; Letters to Mother**

10	1	1927 September-1928 January
10	2	1928 March-July 2
10	3	1928 July 16-May
10	4	1928 November-1929 March
10	5	1929 May-December
10	6	1930 January 1931 February

**Correspondence of Bianca H. McLean and Daniel N. McLean; Letters from Mother**



- 10 7 1911 May 24 (to Family), and 1917 June 27 - August 27
- 10 8 1917 September - November
- 10 9 1918

**Correspondence of Bianca H. McLean and Daniel N. McLean; Letters to and from Father**

- 10 10 1913, 1918, 1919, 1929

**Letters to and from other family members**

- 11 1 Roger Bacon (nephew), 1967 March - October
- 11 2 Mary Bianca Bacon (niece) and Danny McLean (nephew)? 1967 May 11, 1974  
May 28
- 11 3 Bianca M. Eckfeld (sister), 1917-1919
- 11 4 Bianca M. Eckfeld (sister), 1942-1969 and undated
- 11 5 D.N. Eckfeld (nephew), 1942- 1943
- 11 6 D.N. McLean (brother), 1913, 1930
- 11 7 Wilbur McLean (brother), 1918, 1934 - 1935, 1942, 1955
- 11 8 Miscellaneous Family Correspondence, Phillip McLean, 1970 December 9 and  
part of letter to mother or father, undated

**Letters to Mrs. Ross McLean from her Father**

- 11 9 1930 November 29, 1931 November 4, and undated, includes letter to both  
parents, 1928 January 1

**Series 3**  
**Diaries, 1905-1949**  
**Boxes 12 - 21**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 3, Diaries (1905-1949), traces Dr. McLean's remembrances of his high school days in Wellsville, Ohio, to the end of his service as chairman of the history department. The diaries are extensive in their coverage of campus activities and events, during Dr. McLean's long tenure.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged in chronological order.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
12	1	1905-1907
12	2	1908-1909
12	3	1910-1911
12	4	1912-1913
13	1	1914-1915
13	2	1916-1917
13	3	1918 July 30, (Journal)
13	4	1918-1919
13	5	1920
14	1	1921
14	2	1922
14	3	1923
14	4	1924
15	1	1925
15	2	1926
15	3	1927
15	4	1928
16	1	1929
16	2	1930
16	3	1931
16	4	1932
17	1	1933
17	2	1934
17	3	1935
17	4	1936 (datebook)
18	1	1937
18	2	1938
18	3	1939

19	1	1940
19	2	1941
19	3	1942
20	1	1943
20	2	1944
20	3	1945
21	1	1946 (two diaries)
21	2	1947
21	3	1948
21	4	1949 (two diaries)

**Series 4**  
**Photographs, 1916-1946 and undated**  
**Box 22**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 4, Photographs (1916-1946), contains pictures of Dr. Dr. McLean, his family, friends and places.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
22	1	Ross H. McLean, 1911-1912, 1916-1918, 1933, 1936, 1938, undated
22	2	Ross H. and May McLean, 1924, 1927, 1933, 1946, undated
22	3	May B. McLean 1911-1912, 1917-1919, 1931, 1933, 1935-1936, undated
22	4	Homes, 1932-1933, 1935, undated
22	5	Family Members, 1917, [ca 1922?]
22	6	Friends, 1916, 1924, undated
22	7	Emory University: unidentified group, undated
22	8	McLean Funeral Home, 1938
22	9	Munitions Building, [Baltimore, Maryland?], 1919
22	10	Seventh Assembly of League of Nations, 1926 September "Includes snapshots of Mrs. Woodruff Wilson, Mr. Paderewiski]
22	11	World War I soldiers, undated
22	12	Unidentified, 1909-1911, undated

**Series 5**  
**Personal memorabilia, 1827-1971**  
**Box 23**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 5, Personal Memorabilia, consists of genealogical material on the McLean Family. There is a detailed family tree and historical account of the family's immigration and settlement in this country. There is also information on World War I and Wellsville, Ohio, souvenirs, membership cards, and a reichsbanknote and Nazi armband from World War II Germany.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
23	1	Family history includes information on place of origin, names and dates of family members, marriage and death notices
23	2	Family tree, journal of family names and dates, and letters from Angeline J. Sober (niece) to Ross H.
23	3	Excerpts of letters from Daniel N. McLean (Father) to Bianca H. Hanlin (Mother), 1882-1885
23	4	Wedding announcement of May M. and Ross H. McLean, 1918
23	5	Wellsville, Ohio history, including historical pamphlets, class lists, programs of high school graduations, and of associations and organizations, 1903-1904, 1907, 1917, 1924, 1975, undated
23	6	<i>History of the Yellow Creek Presbyterian Church, 1827-1927</i> by Miss Margaret B. Smith
23	7	World War I Miscellany, 1917-1918, undated
23	8	Greeting Cards and membership
23	9	Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1916, 1931-1932 January 29
23	10	Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1932 January 30 - February 19
23	11	Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1932 February 22 - February 29
23	12	Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1932 May 21, 1971, undated

**Series 6**  
**Printer material, 1914-1977**  
**Box 24**

**Scope and Content Note**

Series 6, Printed Material (1925-1975), includes collected writings, class materials, pamphlets on international trips and scholarship, and newspaper clippings. Of the collected writings, there is a copy of a thesis by Dr. McLean entitled *The American Army and the Railroad*. The newspaper clippings are articles about Dr. McLean, Wellsville, Ohio and the family business located there, and obituaries of May B. McLean (wife). In addition, there are writings by Dr. Mclean and others on Nazi Germany, as well as newspaper clippings on Nazi Germany.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
24	1	<i>The American Army and the Railroad</i> a thesis by Ross H. McLean, 1920 May 26 and Bibliography of War Propaganda, 1914-1918
24	2	"Twenty Five Years: A Retrospective," by Ross H. McLean
24	3	Class material including descriptions and examinations, 1960, undated
24	4	Clippings from the <i>Emory Alumnus</i> , 1938, 1943
24	5	Collected writings by Lionel Curtis and J.C. Ward Jr., 1934, 1945, 1977
24	6-7	Programs, pamphlets, membership cards and expense accounts of international scholastic conferences and 3 programs, 1925-1926, 1929, undated
24	8-9	Newspaper Clippings
24	10	Wellsville Union, 11 December 1939
24	11	Program: "The Drummer Boy of Shiloh"
24	12	Miscellany: Student Lecture Association financial statement

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