Ross Hanlin McLean papers, 1905-1977

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

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.

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.

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.

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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

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

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

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

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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.

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>1918 July 30, (Journal)</td>
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</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
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<td>Ross H. and May McLean, 1924, 1927, 1933, 1946, undated</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Homes, 1932-1933, 1935, undated</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Family Members, 1917, [ca 1922?]</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Friends, 1916, 1924, undated</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Emory University: unidentified group, undated</td>
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<td>McLean Funeral Home, 1938</td>
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<td>Munitions Building, [Baltimore, Maryland?], 1919</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Seventh Assembly of League of Nations, 1926 September &quot;Includes snapshots of Mrs. Woodruff Wilson, Mr. Paderewiski]</td>
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<td>World War I soldiers, undated</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Unidentified, 1909-1911, undated</td>
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</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Family history includes information on place of origin, names and dates of family members, marriage and death notices</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Family tree, journal of family names and dates, and letters from Angeline J. Sober (niece) to Ross H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Excerpts of letters from Daniel N. McLean (Father) to Bianca H. Hanlin (Mother), 1882-1885</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wedding announcement of May M. and Ross H. McLean, 1918</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td><em>History of the Yellow Creek Presbyterian Church</em>, 1827-1927 by Miss Margaret B. Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>World War I Miscellany, 1917-1918, undated</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Greeting Cards and membership</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1916, 1931-1932 January 29</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1932 January 30 - February 19</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1932 February 22 - February 29</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Household business letters and checks, and receipts, 1932 May 21, 1971, undated</td>
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</table>
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.

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