



**A GUIDE TO  
THE LOUIS MARTIN SEARS PAPERS**

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## **Descriptive Summary**

<b>Creator:</b>	Sears, Louis Martin, 1885-1960
<b>Title:</b>	The Louis Martin Sears Papers
<b>Dates:</b>	1911-1960 [bulk 1928-1958]
<b>Abstract:</b>	Published and unpublished writings, correspondence, research notes, printed material, photographic material. Papers primarily document the writings of author and Purdue history professor Louis Martin Sears.
<b>Quantity:</b>	3.5 cubic ft.
<b>Repository:</b>	Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Location:</b>	Storage. See also faculty publications in Stacks
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	The Louis Martin Sears Papers, Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Processed by:</b>	Sammie Morris, April 2005

## **Restrictions**

**Access:** Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection.

**Related Materials** A supplementary collection of article reprints and other publications by Sears may be found in the faculty publications in the stacks.

## Biographical Sketch

Author and historian Louis Martin Sears was born in Chicago on June 4, 1885. Sears received Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago, which awarded him its Alumni Citation for Public Service in 1950. Sears joined the faculty of Purdue University in 1920. Prior to coming to Purdue as an assistant professor in 1920, he taught in high schools at Birmingham, Alabama, Joliet, Illinois, and Chicago. Sears became an associate professor at Purdue in 1922, and was promoted to a full professor of history in 1925. In 1953, Sears received the Sigma Delta Chi "Best Teacher" award, and he was commencement speaker to the 1955 graduating class of Purdue University. In addition to his teaching duties at Purdue, Sears taught summer terms at the University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of West Virginia, University of Cincinnati, University of Wisconsin, and New York University. He also taught for a full year at Duke University. After retiring from Purdue in 1956, Sears went to Washington, D.C. to complete work on several books he was writing. Sears authored several history texts and numerous journal articles, primarily relating to United States diplomatic history. Some of his books include *John Slidell, Jefferson and the Embargo*, *A History of American Foreign Relations*, *George Washington*, and *George Washington and the French Revolution*.

Sears was active in the Indiana and Mississippi Valley historical societies, the American Historical Association, and the Academy of Political Science. He was a fellow of the Royal History Society of Great Britain, a member of the University of Chicago Literary Society, the Cosmos Club in Washington, and Phi Beta Kappa. He was an honorary member of the Purdue chapters of Sigma Delta Chi, Scabbard and Blade, Phi Gamma Mu, Alpha Phi Omega, and the Town and Gown Club of Lafayette, Indiana.

Dr. Sears was Professor Emeritus of History at Purdue when he died on May 14, 1960, in George Washington Hospital in Washington, D.C. Sears is buried in Lockport Cemetery in Lockport, Illinois. He never married, and members of his family preceded him in death.

## Scope and Content Note

The Louis Martin Sears Papers (1911-1960; 3.5 cubic ft.) document the professional career of historian and author Louis Martin Sears. Types of materials in the collection include writings, speeches, correspondence, printed material, and a photograph of Sears. The bulk of the papers consist of typescripts or manuscripts for various articles, speeches, or book reviews written by Sears.

The Papers are comprised of the following series: I. Writings; II. Correspondence; III. Research Materials; IV. Printed Material; V. Photographic Material. The Writings series includes journal articles and reprints, typescripts, books, critical reviews, speeches, commencement addresses, talks for conference proceedings, course papers, essays, and memoirs. The Correspondence series includes incoming and outgoing correspondence primarily relating to Sears' various writing projects. The Research Materials series includes Sears' notes and references to sources used by Sears in his writings and research. The Printed Material series includes journal articles, pamphlets, maps, press releases and other assorted materials given to Sears or collected by him. Also included in this series are two sets of meeting minutes of the Parlor Club taken by Sears in 1946. The Photographic Material series consists of one photographic print of Sears, undated.

## INVENTORY

### **SERIES ONE: WRITINGS BY SEARS**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	Journal Articles and Article Reprints, 1914-1959
1	Typescripts for Articles and Dictionary Entries, 1917-1944, n.d.
1	Books Written by Sears, 1926-1935
1	Book Reviews and Article Reviews, 1932-1937
1	Speeches, Commencement Addresses, and Conference Proceedings, 1918-1955
2	Typescripts for Articles and Dictionary Entries, and Manuscripts for Publication, 1953-1955, n.d.
2	Books Written by Sears, 1960, n.d.
2	Course Paper, "The Algerian Conference," by Sears, 1911
2	Book Reviews and Article Reviews, 1928-1959
2	Speeches, Commencement Addresses, and Conference Proceedings, 1953-1955
3	Typescripts and Manuscripts for Articles and Dictionary Entries, 1932-1955, n.d.
3	Page Proofs for <i>John Slidell</i> Book, n.d.
3	Course paper, "The State is Power Says Von Treitschke," 1915
3	Papers written in memory of David E. Ross, John R. Sempill, and Walter Q. Fitch, 1937-1943
3	Biographical Sketch, "James Henry Smart," n.d.
3	Groups of Essays, Probably to be Included in a Book, 1937
3	Book Reviews and Article Reviews, 1919-1956
3	Speeches, Commencement Addresses, and Conference Proceedings, 1943-1958, n.d.

## **SERIES TWO: CORRESPONDENCE**

Box   Folder

- 1      Correspondence Relating to Foreign Relations Manuscript with Dr. Gordon Laing (General Editor of The United Educators), 1944
- 2      Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence, 1936-1959
- 3      Incoming and Outgoing Correspondence, 1936-1958

## **SERIES THREE: RESEARCH MATERIALS**

Box   Folder

- 1      Research Materials, Notes, and References Used by Sears, ca. 1920s-1950s
- 2      Research Materials, Notes, and References Used by Sears, 1957-1960, n.d.
- 3      Research Materials, Notes, and References Used by Louis Martin Sears, n.d.

## **SERIES FOUR: PRINTED MATERIAL**

Box   Folder

- 1      Miscellaneous Printed Material, ca. 1920s-1930s
- 2      Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1956-1959, n.d.
- 3      Miscellaneous Printed Material, 1945-1951, n.d.

## **SERIES FIVE: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS**

Box   Folder

- 2      Photograph of Louis Martin Sears, n.d.