

John Bassett Moore papersMSS.78.9

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1894-1966



SCHOOL *of* LAW

Title Statement

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.78.9

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1894-1966

Language

English French Spanish; Castilian

Creator

Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947

Extent

.3 Linear Feet 1 small archival box (.3 linear ft.)

Repository

Arthur J. Morris Law Library Special Collections

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The donors of these items are unknown, although probably some papers were found by the librarian in the books Moore donated to the Law School in the 1920s.

Biographical / Historical

John Bassett Moore was born in Smyrna, Delaware, 3 December 1860. He studied at the University of Virginia, graduating in 1880. He then returned to Wilmington, where he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1883. In 1885 he became a law clerk at the State Department, and in 1886 was made assistant secretary of State. In 1891, he became professor of international law and diplomacy at Columbia University.

John Bassett Moore studied international law and was active in international affairs all his life. In 1885 he started his first "Digest of International Law," he was counselor to the Spanish-American Peace Commission of 1898, he represented the United States in the Dominican Arbitration of 1904, and in 1910 was the American representative to the Buenos Aires International Conference. In 1912 he became justice of the Permanent Court of International Arbitration at The Hague, in 1915 he was the chairman of the International High Commission organized by the Pan-American Financial Congress, and in 1923 he was United States ambassador extraordinary and president of the International Conference at The Hague. From 1921 to 1928, he was one of the first judges of the Permanent Court of International Justice.

John Bassett Moore received many honorary degrees of doctor of law. In 1927, he received the Roosevelt Distinguished Service Medal. Spain honored him with the Grand Cross of Royal Order of Isabel the Catholic (1921), from China he received the White Grand Cordon with red Borders of the Order of the Jade (1938).

In February of 1951 the Society of International Law of the University of Virginia was named in honor of John Bassett Moore. "The society is well named, for it has been said that during his life, John Bassett Moore won a deserved place beside Hugo Grotius, the great Dutch jurist of the 17th Century, sometimes described as the 'Father of International Law'." (See: Virginia Journal of International Law, vol. 1, no. 2, p.5)

Scope and Contents

The John B. Moore papers consist of correspondence, newspaper clippings, handwritten drafts, and a 1966 John Bassett Moore commemorative postage stamp and envelope. The donors of these items are unknown, although probably some papers were found by the librarian in the books Moore donated to the Law School in the 1920s. The approximately forty items span the years 1894 to 1966 and, for the most part, are unrelated. Of possible historical interest are letters, some in Spanish and French, and a few clippings about the Spanish-American War and international law. Of biographical interest are letters Moore wrote from 1936 to 1941 to Margaret W. Grimm, who lived in the house in Smyrna, Delaware, where Moore was born. Finally, there is a

1966 special series stamp commemorating John B. Moore as a prominent American educator, diplomat, and authority on international law.

Keywords

clippings (information artifacts)

letters (correspondence)

Postage stamps

Spanish-American War, 1898

Grimm, Margaret W.

Moore, John Bassett, 1860-1947