

National Press Club Archives

Finding Aid for the James D. Preston Collection (1868-1937)

Finding aid prepared by
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Summary Information

Creator: James D. Preston
Title: James D. Preston Collection
Inclusive Dates: 1868-1937
Extent: 1 ½ linear feet
Language: All materials are in English
Repository: National Press Club Archives
Accession Number: N/A
Collection Number: MSS 13

Access and Use

Acquisition Information: Unknown
Access Restrictions: None
Copyright: National Press Club

History

Some people called him “James”, others “Jimmy”, but most “Jim”. This man held just as many influential governmental positions as first names. Born in 1876 to a seasoned New York Herald correspondent, James David Preston would live to become the Superintendent of the Senate press gallery, the executive clerk to the standing committee of correspondents, Senate Librarian (1931-1935), and assistant secretary of the National Press Club.

From 1904-1931, he served as the Superintendent of the Senate press gallery where he looked after all the details of official functions in which the members of the press are concerned. Basically, he was the contact man between the Senate and Press.

Preston had a keen interest in preserving historic documents. He played an important part in finding valuable records from the dusty corners of the Capitol during his term as Senate Librarian. In 1934, Preston investigated new methods of prolonging the life of Government records by traveling to European libraries. In England and Scotland, he gained the latest techniques of document preservation to better his skill as Senate Librarian.

Arrangement

The materials have been arranged in two series: NPC activities and scrapbook leaves. Within both series, the articles are arranged chronologically.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The James D. Preston collection (1868-1937) consists of two boxes. The first half of box 1 contains correspondence, speeches, and newspaper clippings about National Press Club activities between 1908 and 1915. The second half of the first box contains Preston's personal scrapbook of newspaper clippings detailing senatorial and Press related activities. The second box contains a bound scrapbook of newspaper clippings also about the Senate and the Press from 1931-1937.

Box List

Box	Folder
1	Envelope Clippings, 1868 & 1895
1	NPC Activities Outline, 1908-1912
1	NPC Activities' History, 1908-1921
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1909
1	NPC Activities, 1909
1	NPC Activities, 1910
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1910
1	NPC Activities, 1911
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1911
1	NPC Activities, 1912
1	NPC Activities: Hobby Night, January 31, 1912
1	NPC Activities: Debate "Resolved: that Bow- legs", 1912
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1912
1	NPC Activities, 1913
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1913
1	NPC Activities, 1914
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1914
1	NPC Activities, 1915
1	NPC Activities Clippings, 1915
1	NPC Activities, n.d.
1	Scrapbook, 1922: leaves 1-10
1	Scrapbook, 1922: leaves 11-16
1	Scrapbook, 1922: leaves 17-29
1	Scrapbook, 1922: leaves 30-36
1	Scrapbook Clippings, 1907-1921
<u>Box 2</u>	
2	Scrapbook, 1931-1937