

# Wilson Centennial Exhibit Materials, 1948-1956 Ms.1956.002

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## Title Statement

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1956.002

### Unit Date

1948-1956

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

This collection contains materials exhibited by Virginia Tech's Newman Library in 1956 to commemorate the centennial of the birth of President Woodrow Wilson.

### Creator

Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Library

### Extent

0.2 Cubic Feet 1 box

### Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

# Administrative Information

## Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

## Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

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## Source of Acquisition

The Wilson Centennial Exhibit Materials were donated to Newman Library 1956 by the Newman Library Exhibits Committee.

## Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the Wilson Centennial Exhibit Materials commenced and was completed in November 2004.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Wilson Centennial Exhibit Materials, Ms1956-002, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

# Biographical Note

Woodrow R. Wilson, 28th president of the United States, was born in Staunton, Virginia, on December 28, 1856. Son of a Presbyterian minister, Wilson graduated from Princeton University and the University of Virginia Law School before receiving his doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. Wilson married his first wife, Ellen Louise Axson, in 1885, and pursued a line in academics as a professor of political science, becoming president of Princeton in 1902.

Wilson was elected governor of New Jersey in 1910, then was nominated for the presidency at the 1912 Democratic Convention, campaigning for individualism and states' rights in a program called the New Freedom. With a belief in progressive reform and the president's responsibility for the general interest of the country, Wilson's administration was critical in the passage of major legislations: the Underwood Act, the graduated Federal income tax, the Federal Reserve Act, prohibition of child labor and limited work hours for railroad workers. He was re-elected to the presidency in 1916. During Wilson's second term, he led the nation into the first World War to "make the world safe for democracy."

In the aftermath of the war, Wilson undertook a nationwide campaign to promote the Versailles Treaty and the League of Nations. His exhausting schedule contributed to a stroke that left Wilson incapacitated and the nation virtually without a president for the remainder of his term. Nursed by his second wife, Edith Bolling Galt, Wilson survived, and the couple continued to live in Washington D.C. until his death on February 3, 1924.

To commemorate the centennial of Wilson's birth, a cooperative effort was launched through the United States Woodrow Wilson Centennial Celebration Commission, the Commission on the Virginia Woodrow Wilson Centennial Celebration, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation (New York City), and the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation (Staunton, Virginia). The centennial observance was funded in Virginia by a \$45,500 appropriation from state and local governments, with commemorative events held throughout the commonwealth, including this small exhibit in Virginia Tech's newly dedicated Newman Library.

# Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials used for an exhibit to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Woodrow Wilson. The material comprises a sample of exhibits displayed in the Wilson Centennial Exhibition at Staunton, Virginia. The materials include information on Wilson's life and politics and contain reproductions of letters in Wilson's handwriting. Also included are photographs of Wilson from various stages of his political career and his birthplace, together with speeches and political cartoons about his presidency. Found here as well is a collection of Wilson-related bibliographies. Pamphlets and information about his birth, birthplace and ancestry are also available, together with some miscellaneous news releases.

# Keywords

Local/Regional History and Appalachian South  
Politicians -- United States  
Presidents -- United States  
Staunton (Va.)  
Virginia -- History  
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the Wilson Centennial Exhibit Materials by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## Arrangement

The collection is arranged by material type. One part of the collection is preserved in the same order that it was shown in the exhibit, as indicated by the number sequencing on those documents. The photographs of Wilson's birth place have also been kept as they had been categorized in the exhibit. The bibliographies and miscellaneous printed material have been sorted by relevance.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Reproductions for exhibit

**Unit Date** 1884-1922

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 1 (folder)

### Photographs

**Unit Date** n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 2 (folder)

### Wilson-related bibliographies

**Unit Date** 1948-1956, n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 3 (folder)

### Miscellaneous printed materials

**Unit Date** 1955-1956, n.d.

**box-folder** 1 (box)

**Container** 4 (folder)