

COMMITTEE ON THE HISTORY OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Register of Papers

I

Processed: MA,IB
Date: 12/30/55

WESLEY CLAIR MITCHELL

(1878 - 1948)

The papers of Wesley Clair Mitchell, economist, author, head of the National Bureau of Economic Research, brother-in-law of Adolph Miller of the Federal Reserve Board, were given to the library of Columbia University, New York City, by his wife, Lucy Sprague Mitchell. They are kept with the Special Collections

Measure of size: 40 boxes

Approximate number of items:

An informal description and catalogue of the papers, occupying 146 pages, has been made and is available for consultation at Columbia.

The papers are open to study by scholars.

Biographical Note

- 1878, Aug. 5 Born, Rushville, Illinois
- 1896 A.B., University of Chicago
- 1899 Ph.D., University of Chicago
- 1897-98 Graduate work at Universities of Halle and Vienna
M.A., Oxford
- 1899-1900 Census Office, Washington, D. C.
- 1900-02 Instructor in economics, University of Chicago
- 1902-12 Assistant professor of commerce, then professor
of political economy, University of California
- 1908-09 Lecturer on economics, Harvard
- 1912, May 8 Married Lucy Sprague (then Dean of Women,
Univ. of Calif.) (4 children)
- 1913-44 Lecturer, then professor of economics, Columbia
University
- 1918-19 Chief, Price Section, War Industries Board
- 1919-21 Lecturer, New School for Social Research
- 1930-31 Visiting professor at Oxford, England
- 1934 Hitchcock professor, Univ. of California
- 1948, Oct. 29 Died
- Author of: A History of Greenbacks. 1903.
Gold Prices and Wages under the Greenback Standard. 1908.
Business Cycles. 1913.
Business Cycles, the Problem and its Setting. 1927.
The Backward Art of Spending Money. 1937.
- Co-Author of: Income in the U.S., its Amount and Distribution. 1921.
Recent Economic Changes. 1929.
Recent Social Trends. 1933.
Measuring Business Cycles. 1946.
- Editors: History of Prices During the War: Business Cycles
and Unemployment. 1923.

See: Internal memorandum with Lucy S. Mitchell re Adolph Miller
Who Was Who in America, 1943-50, vol. II, Marquis

Description of Series

The papers are divided into nine groups as follows:

A	Economic Theory and its History (see also O)	8 boxes
B	Business Cycles	4 boxes
C	Correspondence	8 boxes
M	Money, the Money Economy, and Economic History (see also A)	2 boxes
N	National Planning	1 box
O	Anthropology and Psychology (see also A)	2 boxes
P	Published materials not by WCM	9 boxes
P-WCM	Published materials by WCM	3 boxes
X	Miscellaneous	3 boxes

Within those groups, they are catalogued alphabetically or chronologically, and sometimes (as in the correspondence division) both ways. Scholars looking for material touching on Federal Reserve history will find a few possibilities in most of the divisions. While Dr. Mitchell had no direct connection with the System, he was an active professor of economics during some of the System's most difficult years. His files bear evidence of much thought on System problems and considerable correspondence with certain System personalities. Correspondence with Benjamin Strong, Sir Henry Clay, Walter Stewart, Carl Snyder, Dr. A. C. Miller, Paul Warburg, H. Parker Willis among others holds promise.

Series M contains notes and chapters for a proposed book on the money economy.

Series P includes notes made by Dr. Mitchell on his reading and affords a quick survey of economic thought from 1910 to 1948.