

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # *86 M 3

Location 3-j-2/3

Title ST. CLAIR MCKELWAY. Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1865-1915

Date of receipt 1949

Received from Flora Foster and
B.M. McKelway

Volume on arrival Unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 19 containers; 17 boxes and 2 packages

Condition Good

Restrictions None

Description St. Clair McKelway (1845-1915) was editor of the Brooklyn Eagle from 1884 until his death; he built the newspaper into a nationally well-regarded one, at the same keeping it a distinctively Brooklyn one. McKelway became a well-known figure through his work for the Eagle; he was also known for the speeches he made at various occasions, both public and private. McKelway attended law school at the wish of his family, however he never practised; he began his career in journalism in 1866 as a reporter for the New York World, then soon after he began working for the Eagle. Furthermore, McKelway was a member of the New York Board of Regents, 1883-1915; he became chancellor in 1913. He was extremely well-read, but ideologically he remained a figure of the nineteenth century; in spite of his interest in reform, he is not seen as a progressive figure. The collection consists of three main categories; correspondence, 1872-1948, writings, (1881-1915), and unsorted material. Among the primarily professional letters are a few personal items, such as condolences on the death of McKelway's son who was the Paris correspondent of the Eagle. The correspondence is divided into outgoing and incoming; most of it is outgoing. Included is some editorial correspondence, primarily items which record the reactions of individuals who saw their interests either furthered or damaged by Eagle editorials. Most of the correspondence, however, is concerned with educational matters. Significant documents include letters from Whitelaw Reid (1839-1912), A.S. Draper (1848-1913), Seth Low (1850-1916), Nicholas Murray Butler (1862-1947) and John Bigelow (1854-1930); a letter, 1909, of Samuel Clemens is also of interest. The letters of Mrs. McKelway are interspersed through the correspondence, along with separate folders containing letters of McKelway's niece and nephew. In addition, there are folders of undated documents. The greater part of the writings are originals and copies

Special Formats ☒ Photographs ☐ Maps ☐ Audio Tapes ☐ Films ☒ Graphics
☐ Artifacts ☐ Machine-readable records
☐ Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries Brooklyn Eagle; Educational Associations; Newspaper Publishing; New York (State) Board of Regents; Speeches; 1850-1874; 1875-1899; 1900-1924; 1925-1949

Accessioned by Julia Todd

Date March 7, 1986

of McKelway's addresses and speeches, which deal primarily with public affairs and educational issues along with matters pertaining to Brooklyn and Brooklyn's future. Included is a speech concerned with the John Y. McKane case; McKelway's efforts towards McKane's conviction for fraud in the Gravesend Elections of 1883 was his major reform effort. Some speeches were composed in honor of various public figures, in particular Grover Cleveland, whom McKelway actively endorsed. Other writings include Brooklyn Eagle editorials, book reviews and obituaries. The unsorted documents incorporate McKelway's clippings and various photographs; also included is a folder of condolences sent to McKelway's wife at his death. Furthermore, there are several folders of various documents, along with separate folders of material concerned with the New York Board of Regents, and one folder of addresses and speeches by individuals other than McKelway. One box of bound volumes of Chamber of Commerce speeches, with one speech by McKelway, is included; another box contains an index file of McKelway's speeches. Finally, of no apparent interest to the rest of the collection is a manuscript of a novel entitled Didaschelle, a satirical work written in an unidentified hand.

ST. CLAIR MCKELWAY PAPERS

CONTAINER LIST

Box Contents

Correspondence

- 1 Incoming, 1872-1897
- 2 Incoming, 1898-1904
- 3 Incoming, 1905-1910
- 4 Incoming, 1911-1915; Unidentified; To Flora Foster and Mrs. McKelway
- 5 Letters received 1881; Letters sent 1902; Not-dated; Letters to Mrs. McKelway and A.J. McKelway; Transcripts received; Originals sent
Transcripts sent
- 6 Letters sent; Fragments; (Index to addresses and speeches; Addresses and speeches, 1881-1892)

Writings

- 7 Addresses and speeches, 1893-1897
- 8 Addresses and speeches, 1897-1900
- 9 Addresses and speeches, 1901-1903
- 10 Addresses and speeches, 1904-1907
- 11 Addresses and speeches, 1908-1914
- 12 Addresses and speeches, not-dated, fragments; Editorials and book reviews
- 13 Editorials and book reviews

Unsorted

- 14 Unsorted papers
- 15 Chamber of Commerce volumes
- 16 Index cards and pamphlets
- 17 Menus, invitations, programs etc.
- ~~18~~ 18 Photographs, certificates etc. (package) — 305-K-3 (over 130)
- 19 Didaschelle (package)

MCKELWAY, ST. CLAIR (1869-1915)

Papers, ca. 1972-1915.

St. Clair McKelway (1869-1915) was editor of the Brooklyn Eagle; 1885-1915; he was known for his work for the paper, for his addresses and speeches, and for his role as a Regent of the State of New York.

Gift of Flora Foster and
B. M. McKelway, ca. 1949 *86 M 3

Brooklyn Eagle

Educational Associations

Newspaper Publishing

New York (State) Board of Regents

Speeches

1850-1874

1875-1899

1900-1924

1925-1949