

Guide to the Records of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Office of the President, 1883-1930 AC.0013

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Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
MIT Libraries
Building 14N-118
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139-4307
617.253.5690
mithistory@mit.edu

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Summary Information

Repository	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Office of the President
Title	Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President records
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1897-1931
Date [inclusive]	1883-1941
Extent	10.5 cubic feet (31 manuscript boxes, 1 half manuscript box)
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The collection documents the administration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the responsibilities and activities of the Institute's presidents between 1897 and 1930. This was a period of enormous growth and development of the Institute, which was chartered in 1861 and graduated its first class of undergraduates in 1868. There is correspondence about the proposed merger with Harvard University in 1904 and a proposed alliance in 1911. The purchase of land, the planning and building of the new campus, and MIT's move from Boston to Cambridge in 1916 are documented. The collection also contains reports and correspondence recording the work of committees; correspondence with faculty and department heads, with donors, and with other universities, professional organizations, and government offices.</p>

Citation

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President Records, AC 13, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Historical note

Between 1883 and 1930 the following individuals served as president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Francis Amasa Walker, 1881-1897; James Mason Crafts, 1897-1900; Henry Smith Pritchett, 1900-1907; Arthur Amos Noyes, acting president, 1907-1909; Richard C. Maclaurin, 1909-1920; Ernest Fox Nichols, 1921; Elihu Thomson, acting president, 1921-1922; and Samuel Wesley Stratton, 1923-1930.

Further information about the [Office of the President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) may be found on the website of the Institute Archives and Special Collections.

Scope and Contents of the Collection

The collection documents the administration of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the responsibilities and activities of the Institute's presidents between 1883 and 1930. This was a period of enormous growth and development of the Institute, which was chartered in 1861 and graduated its first class of undergraduates in 1868.

There is little documentation of Walker's presidency in this collection; the bulk of the records date from 1897. Correspondence, memoranda, and reports record activities of the MIT Corporation, including the Executive Committee and visiting committees. There is correspondence about the proposed merger with Harvard University in 1904 and a proposed alliance in 1911. The purchase of land for a new campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the planning and building of the new campus, and MIT's move from Boston to Cambridge in 1916 are well documented in correspondence with city officials, the architects and builders, as well as faculty. Reports and correspondence record the work of several committees, including the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Revision of the First and Second Years, 1929-1931. There is correspondence with faculty and department heads about appointments, curriculum, scholarships, and prizes; with donors about gifts and bequests to the Institute; with other universities, professional organizations, and government offices including the United States Army and Navy, the Bureau of Standards, and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Institute Archives and Special Collections

Revision Description

2010

Access note

The collection is open for research.

Intellectual Property Rights

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Related Materials

Related Materials in the Institute Archives and Special Collections, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

William Barton Rogers papers, MC 1.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President, records of Karl T. Compton and James R. Killian, AC 4.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President, records of Julius A. Stratton, AC 134.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President, records of Howard W. Johnson, AC 118.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President, records of Jerome B. Wiesner, AC 8.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President, records of Paul E. Gray, AC 180.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Office of the President, records of Charles M. Vest, AC 510.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. *Annual Reports to the President*. 1873-

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Office of the President

Personal Name(s)

- Crafts, J. M. (James Mason), 1839-1917
- Maclaurin, Richard C. (Richard Cockburn), 1870-1920
- Nichols, Ernest Fox, 1869-1924
- Noyes, Arthur A. (Arthur Amos), 1866-1936
- Pritchett, Henry S. (Henry Smith), 1857-1939
- Stratton, Samuel W. (Samuel Wesley), 1861-1931
- Thomson, Elihu, 1853-1937
- Walker, Francis Amasa, 1840-1897

Subject(s)

- Administration.
- Education--United States.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology--History.
- Presidents.
- Relations with other universities

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MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections. [History of the Office of the MIT President](#).

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