

# Preliminary Guide to the John Clayton Tracy Papers

MS 502



compiled by Lisa Newman

February 1979

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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**CALL NUMBER:** MS 502

**CREATOR:** Tracy, John C. (John Clayton), 1869-1955

**TITLE:** John Clayton Tracy papers

**DATES:** 1892-1952

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The John Clayton Tracy Papers consist of writings, correspondence, and subject files relating to Tracy's role as professor of civil engineering and head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Sheffield Scientific School, secretary of the Yale Class of 1890 (S.S.S.), and Yale representative to the Society of Sigma Xi.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0502>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0502>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Carleton Smith and the Department of Civil Engineering, Yale University.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

John Clayton Tracy Papers. Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

John Clayton Tracy, civil engineer and author, was born in Willimantic, Connecticut on November 3, 1869. He received his Ph.B. from the Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, in 1890, and his C.E. in 1892. Tracy was an instructor (1891-1892), assistant professor (1902-1915), and professor (1915-1936) in the Department of Civil Engineering at Yale. He also served as department chairman from 1915-1936.

Member of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education, Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, Graduates Club. Director of the New Haven Chamber of Commerce, Member Executive Committee Yale Engineering Association, Yale representative on the national council of the Society of the Sigma Xi.

Tracy died on November 1, 1955.

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## Scope and Contents

The John Clayton Tracy Papers consist of writings, correspondence, and subject files relating to Tracy's role as professor of civil engineering and head of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Sheffield Scientific School, secretary of the Yale Class of 1890 (S.S.S.), and Yale representative to the Society of Sigma Xi.

## Collection Contents

### Writings

b. 1-3	[Surveying; Theory and Practice or Plane Surveying?]: drafts and related papers English	[1903-1947?]
b. 4	"Bridge Building": two notebooks English	1892
b. 4	[Copies of various speeches or papers?] English	1905, 1911, undated
b. 4	<i>Plane Surveying: A Text Book and Pocket Manual</i>	1907
b. 4	<i>Exercises in Surveying</i> English	1909
b. 4	<i>Descriptive Geometry: page proofs</i> English	[1914?]
<i>Stresses Statically Determined</i>		
b. 4	[Draft of letter to McGraw Hill Co. about book?], advertisements English	1922 September 8, [1929?]
b. 4	Proofs	1929
b. 4	Editorial and reader correspondence	1929-1930
b. 4	"Permissible Errors in Measurements on Running Tracks," related correspondence English	1937, undated
b. 4	Miscellaneous biographical sketches, miscellaneous papers	1943, undated
b. 4	"Talk to the Graduating Class of Civil Engineers" English	1952
b. 4	Miscellaneous printed geometric figures	undated
b. 4	"Notes for Lecture on the Panama Canal," miscellaneous papers English	undated
Sigma Xi		
b. 5	Printed matter	1898-1915, undated
b. 6	Miscellaneous correspondence	Circa 1902-1907
b. 6	Nomination blanks, miscellaneous cards	1902, 1903, 1905, 1908, undated
b. 6	Miscellaneous papers	[1902-1914?]

### Class of 1890S

b. 6	"Class [of] 1890S correspondence" English	Circa 1920-1928
b. 6	"Records of the Class: 1890S" English	1925
b. 6	"Replies to (90S) Questionnaires" English	1925, 1930
b. 7	Miscellaneous papers	1926-1938, undated
b. 7	"Class [of] 1890S: correspondence" English	Circa 1928-1931
b. 7	Correspondence of Tracy as Class Secretary	Circa 1928-1935, 1952, 1954
b. 7	"Class of 90S: Letters (1930)" English	1930
b. 7	Miscellaneous correspondence, two class buttons	Circa 1930-1942
b. 8	"90S correspondence, 1931-1932" English	1931-1932
b. 8	Papers relating to the forty-fifth reunion	1935
b. 8	Miscellaneous letters	[ca. 1940-1950?]
b. 8	"Class Notes, Alumni Magazine, including notices of deaths" English	[1949, 1950, 1951?]
b. 8	"Class Record, Death of Heyworth" English	[1951?]
Yale University and Engineering		
b. 9	Papers on engineering education, miscellaneous papers	Circa 1900-1923, undated
b. 9	"Discussion of engineering problems at Yale," miscellaneous papers English	[1905-1920?]
b. 9	Blueprint of Yale Athletic Field	[1912?]
b. 9	"Committee of Twenty-one and the 'Bowl'" English	Circa 1913
b. 9	"Intra departmental engineering discussion," miscellaneous papers English	1915, undated
b. 9	Miscellaneous papers	Circa 1915-1923, undated
b. 9	"University Reorganization" English	1918, undated

b. 9	"Correspondence 1919: Transmission and Communication Electro-Physics" English	1919
b. 9	"Engineering Degrees" English	1919, undated
b. 9	"Freshman Engineering" English	undated
b. 9	"Transportation and Administrative Engineering" English	1919, 1920
b. 10	Miscellaneous papers	1919, 1921, undated
b. 10	"ROTC., 1919-1921" English	1919-1921
b. 10	["Graduate School"?] English	1919-1922, undated
b. 10	"Plans for the Development of the Engineering Department at Yale University" English	1920
b. 10	John C. Tracy: "'Notes on Bridge Design'...prepared for the use of the students..."	undated
Miscellany		
b. 10	Papers and letters related to the Red Cross	Circa 1928-1932
b. 10	Papers concerning the Tracy Memorial Tablet, miscellaneous papers	1915, 1939, 1943

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Civil engineering -- United States  
Educators  
Engineering -- Study and teaching -- United States

### **Occupations**

Engineers

### **Names**

Tracy, John C. (John Clayton), 1869-1955

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale University. School of Engineering  
Yale University -- Alumni and alumnae  
Yale University -- Faculty  
Yale University -- Students