

# Use of the Microfilm Edition

This microfilm edition of the personal papers of John Foster Dulles is comprised of four parts and a microfilmed index (roll 67). **Part I: Selected Correspondence and Related Materials** appears on rolls 1–56. In this context, “selected” refers to letters or memorandums involving either prominent persons or issues of particular interest and importance. The remaining materials, or “general” correspondence, refer to communications on matters of limited historical significance, such as routine acknowledgments of social invitations. This general correspondence was not filmed. The documents comprising Part I are arranged by year. Within each year the documents are filed alphabetically by the name of the correspondent, organization, geographical area, or subject, as labeled on the separate file folders. Within each folder the correspondence is further sorted by month and date. On occasion the researcher will find “related materials” in the form of articles, statements, speeches, or clippings that directly pertain to the contents of that particular folder.

**Part II: Diaries and Journals** is found on roll 57. It is comprised of notes that Dulles recorded intermittently during the course of his travels over a thirty-year period, 1907–1938. The entries mainly refer to his activities on the American Commission to Negotiate Peace in Paris following World War I, a vacation on the St. Lawrence River in the mid-1930s, and to a trip to China in 1938.

**Part III: Articles, Papers, Reports, Etc.** contains pieces written by Dulles and is arranged chronologically from 1896 to 1958. They are located on the latter part of roll 57 and on roll 58.

**Part IV: Speeches, Statements, Press Conferences, Etc.** is located on rolls 59–66.

Researchers would be best served by beginning with an examination of the three-volume finding aid on roll 67, which consists of a microfilm copy of the *Guide to the Papers of John Foster Dulles*, compiled by Nancy Bressler. Volume I, pages 1–381, contains alphabetical listings of names and other entries appearing for each year in which correspondence exists (1891, 1893–1895, 1907–1908, 1911–1959). In essence, this listing is a summary of the materials appearing on rolls 1–56. Volume II, pages 382–654, includes a single comprehensive alphabetical listing of all the names of correspondents, organizations, geographic areas, and subjects in Part I. If a researcher is interested in Dulles’s correspondence with select individuals, Volume II is the place to begin. Pages 655–65 describe materials not included in this microfilm edition.

Volume III, page 666, gives a brief description of the diaries and journals comprising Part II of the microfilm (roll 57). Pages 667–703 provide the title, place of publication, and date for each of the documents in Part III. Pages 704–915 contain a detailed chronological listing of the speeches and statements in Part IV.