

James Bruce Collection

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James Bruce was born December 23, 1892 in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of United States Senator William Cabell Bruce and Louise Este Fisher Bruce. He attended the Gilman School, Baltimore, and Princeton University, from which he graduated in 1914. He received his Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Maryland in 1916. Later that year Bruce traveled to Rome to serve as private secretary to his uncle, Thomas Nelson Page, U.S. Ambassador to Italy. At the outbreak of World War I, Bruce enlisted in the U.S. Army and subsequently served in France and Germany. In 1919, he was named special aide-de-camp to President Woodrow Wilson on Wilson's visit to Italy. Soon thereafter

Bruce was appointed military attaché to the American Embassy in Rome. He served as a representative of the Paris Peace Conference on a special mission to investigate warfare in Albania and Montenegro.

After his discharge from the Army in 1919, James Bruce returned to the United States and married Ellen McHenry Keyser, also of Baltimore. He entered into a career in banking and in 1931 became president of the Baltimore Trust Company. In 1933 James Bruce was appointed financial adviser to the Home Owners Loan Corporation in Washington. The following year he returned to the corporate world and served as vice president and director of the National Dairy Products Corporation until 1937. James Bruce went on to become director of numerous companies, including American Airlines, Republic Steel, and Loew's Theatres.



In 1947, President Harry Truman appointed James Bruce United States Ambassador to Argentina. Bruce held this important post until 1949, when he resigned and accepted the position of director of the Mutual Defense Association. He resigned this position in 1950 to return to the business world once again. James Bruce remained a businessman for the rest of

his professional life, taking time off only to run for United State Senator from Maryland in 1958 as well as to conduct fundraisers for Democratic candidates during election campaigns. Bruce authored a number of books, including his *Memoirs* and *Those Perplexing Argentines*. James Bruce died in New York City in 1980.

