

**Robert J. Fulton, SJ, President's Office Records  
1866-1895, undated**

**BC.1986.020B**

<http://hdl.handle.net/2345/1156>



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# Table of Contents

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Summary Information ..... 3

Administrative Information ..... 4

Related Materials ..... 4

Biographical note..... 6

Scope and Contents note..... 7

Arrangement note..... 7

Collection Inventory..... 8

Series I: Correspondence..... 8

Series II: Event materials..... 8

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## Summary Information

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<b>Library Unit</b>	Archives and Manuscripts Department
<b>Title</b>	Robert Fulton, SJ, President's Office records
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1866-1895, undated
<b>Extent</b>	0.25 Linear feet (1 box)
<b>General Physical Description note</b>	The Louise Imogen Guiney correspondence is made up of photocopies from Holy Cross College. It is not possible to know when or by whom the copies were made, although the photocopies are listed as accession BC.1994.152, accessioned in 1994 November. Please contact Holy Cross College archives regarding their reproduction and use policies.
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials note</b>	Materials in this collection are primarily in English, with some Latin.
<b>Abstract</b>	The Robert Fulton, SJ, President's Office Records contain correspondence, manuscript material, notes, programs, and ephemera documenting the life and work of Robert Fulton, SJ, twice president of Boston College.

### Preferred Citation note

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Robert Fulton, SJ, President's Office Records, BC.1986.020B, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Processed by unknown; revised by AnneMarie Anderson, March 2010; revised by Stephanie Bennett, May 2013. This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit.

### Last Update

May 2013

### Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research.

### Restrictions on use

These materials are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright Law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source. The original authors may retain copyright to the materials.

### Provenance

Because the current accessioning system was not used until January 1986, it is not possible to know exactly the dates of acquisition of materials received before that time. James Woods, SJ, donated the Building Fund Fair ticket in 2002. Brendan Connolly, SJ, was the source of the letter from Fulton to Mr. Devver. E. A. Sullivan, SJ, donated the book plate award of merit. Charles F. Donovan, SJ, donated the photocopied letters from Fulton to Louise Imogen Guiney. Paul Nelligan donated Fulton's letters to Anna Ward and her retreat notebook in October 2000.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials note

President's Office Records, University Archives, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

John Boyle O'Reilly Papers, MS.2004.093, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.



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## Biographical note

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Robert Fulton was born on June 28, 1826, in Alexandria, Virginia. When he was quite young, his father died and the family was left in poverty. Fulton's mother supported herself and her young son by teaching and running a boarding house. Beginning around 1838, Fulton worked as a page in the United States Senate, which enabled him to contribute to the family income and begin saving for his own education. The position ended when Fulton turned 16, leaving him in need of employment. After several false starts, including an attempt at studying medicine independently, Fulton decided on a career at West Point. In preparation he enrolled at Georgetown College. While at Georgetown, Fulton discerned his vocation to the priesthood. He entered the Jesuit novitiate in Frederick, Maryland on August 31, 1843. On the same day, his mother also entered the consecrated religious life at the Convent of the Visitation, Georgetown.

In the following years, Fulton alternated between his own studies and teaching. He was ordained on July 25, 1857, and came to Boston in March of 1861. He settled in Boston in 1863.

Fulton's official tenure at Boston College began with its opening in 1864. After serving as an instructor and the college's first prefect, he became the third president of Boston College (1870-1880). Fulton is remembered as the president under whom BC had its first graduating class. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Young Men's Catholic Association of Boston College (later of Boston) and the expansion of the college.

Fulton was well-liked and respected by his own Jesuit community and the college community, as well as the broader community of Boston. At a retirement banquet given for Fulton by the YMCA in 1880, Governor John D. Long and Mayor Frederick O. Prince each spoke in his honor. Also present was Fulton's friend and editor of the *Pilot*, John Boyle O'Reilly, who composed and read a tribute poem entitled "The Empty Niche."

Fulton returned to the position of president for three additional years in 1888, serving until 1891. He died four years later in 1895.

### Source:

David R. Dunigan. *A History of Boston College*. Milwaukee, WI: Bruce Publishing Co., 1947.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The Robert Fulton, SJ, President's Office Records contain correspondence, manuscript material, notes, programs, and ephemera documenting the life and work of Robert Fulton, SJ. Of note are materials related to Fulton's establishment of the Young Men's Catholic Association, Fulton's retirement reception (including the ode composed for him and read by John Boyle O'Reilly), and a notebook kept by Anna Ward (née Anna Hazard Barber), documenting a retreat led by Fulton in 1866. One frequent correspondent was Grace Bristed, née Grace Sedgwick, wife of Charles Astor Bristed, the grandson of J.J. Astor. Louise Imogen Guiney, another correspondent, was a poet, essayist, and scholar who was born in Roxbury. The collection also contains a book plate award for "Eduardo Lamb" written in Latin, a transcript of Fulton's eulogy for John Boyle O'Reilly, notes from Father Francis Barnum about Fulton's involvement in the temporary ownership of a summer home near Fairhaven, and Fulton's death announcement.

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## Arrangement note

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The papers are arranged into two series: I. Correspondence; II. Event materials. Both series are arranged in chronological order. Correspondence contains Fulton's incoming and outgoing correspondence, primarily his letters to Grace Bristed and Anna Ward. Series II. Event materials contains programs, clippings, articles, and other materials related to Fulton's work at Boston College, his 1880 retirement, and administrative affairs of Boston College.

# Collection Inventory

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## Series I: Correspondence, 1867-1894

Fulton, Robert J. to Grace Bristed, 1867-1892	Box 1	Folder 1-4
Fulton, Robert J. to Louise Imogen Guiney, photocopies, circa 1873-1894	Box 1	Folder 5
Fulton, Robert J. to the <i>Pilot</i> concerning the formation of a Young Men's Catholic Association of Boston, and <i>Pilot</i> article transcriptions, 1875	Box 1	Folder 6
Fulton, Robert J. to Anna Ward, circa 1879-1894	Box 1	Folder 7
Miscellaneous incoming and outgoing correspondence, circa 1880-1890	Box 1	Folder 8

## Series II: Event materials, 1866-1895

Anna Ward's notebook of Fulton's retreat at the Convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame, 1866 August	Box 1	Folder 9
Fulton, Robert, portrait sketch, by Sarah J. F. Johnston, circa 1870-1895	Box 5	Folder 21
Catholic Festival program, 1873 November	Box 1	Folder 10
Father Francis Barnum's notes: Boston College villa and trees at Immaculate Conception, circa 1873	Box 1	Folder 11
Book plate award of merit to Eduardo P. Lamb, 1876	Box 1	Folder 12
Fulton's retirement reception program, minutes, John Boyle O'Reilly poem on the occasion, and <i>Boston Herald</i> clippings, 1880	Box 1	Folder 13
Ticket to Building Fund Fair, 1889 November	Box 1	Folder 14



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"Death of John Boyle O'Reilly," including eulogy by  
Fulton, 1890

Box 1

Folder 15

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Fulton death announcement and letter from Francis Butler  
to William Dowling, 1895

Box 1

Folder 16