

CLASS C

INTRODUCTION

Class C contains the constitutional records of the states. In the aggregate, these sum up the basic principles that have controlled the development of the fundamental law of the nation. These records describe the behavior of constitutional conventions, that are the agents through which the political sovereign from time to time acts in making the body of law which is basic in the structure of government and which shapes the contours of authority of its established organs.

Part 1 includes patents, grants, charters and constitutions - landmark expressions of the fundamental law. These have been the builders' frames basic to the structure and form of government and have served as guaranty reservoirs for repose of the liberties of the people. Historically they mark the constitutional revolution of America from authority granted downward in concessions of Colonial charters of privileges to the spring of popular sovereignty with reservation of liberty in the Bill of Rights.

Part 2 includes journals of the proceedings of constitutional conventions, and Part 3 constitutional convention debates. Part 4, constitutional convention papers, contains various file papers and committee drafts sometimes preserved but seldom published. The constitutional convention is the primary assembly of representatives of the people where sovereignty, the constitution making power infinitely divisible in its make-up, is channeled into a unity of action - the great contribution of America to the science of the body politic.

Part 5 includes the proceedings and reports of constitutional commissions and councils of censors, occasional bodies doing the spade work for constitutional revision. Part X provides a catch-all for miscellaneous materials that do not fit into one of the regular parts.

Location symbols show that the Library of Congress furnished the largest number of printed materials making up Class C and that the remainder was contributed widely by holders throughout the states. This class contains a substantial body of unpublished material and a number of journals of little known conventions. These should form an additional source of considerable importance to the constitutional historian. Due to the limited amount of material contained in Class C for each of the states as compared with the other regular classes, it will be feasible, in most cases, to arrange all of the parts for a state on a composite reel. The reel symbol, therefore, will contain only "C", the reel number and its inclusive dates. The materials will be grouped on the reel chronologically and the part symbol will appear below the unit number. Proper reference citation to be made by users of the microfilms will be RSUS., followed by the reel symbol and number and the unit number.