Gutzon Borglum Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2015
Revised 2015 June

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011155

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79013284

Prepared by Grover Batts and Joseph Sullivan
Collection Summary
Title: Gutzon Borglum Papers
Span Dates: 1895-1960
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1912-1941)
ID No.: MSS13284
Creator: Borglum, Gutzon, 1867-1941
Extent: 71,000 items ; 190 containers plus 1 oversize ; 76.4 linear feet ; 1 microfilm reel
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Artist, author, and sculptor. Correspondence, diaries, family papers, subject files, speeches and writings, and other papers relating primarily to Borglum's artistic works, especially the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and plans for a Confederate memorial at Stone Mountain, Georgia. Also includes records of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission and of its officials.

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.

People
Arnold, Henry Harley, 1886-1950--Correspondence.
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Boland, John A. (John Abram), 1884-1958--Correspondence.
Borglum family.
Borglum, Gutzon, 1867-1941.
Borglum, Lincoln, 1912-1986--Correspondence.
Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
French, Daniel Chester, 1850-1931--Correspondence.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Ickes, Harold L. (Harold LeClair), 1874-1952--Correspondence.
King, William Lyon Mackenzie, 1874-1950--Correspondence.
Lincoln, Robert Todd, 1843-1926--Correspondence.
Norris, George W. (George William), 1861-1944--Correspondence.
Pittman, Key, 1872-1940--Correspondence.
Rodin, Auguste, 1840-1917--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Rosenwald, Julius, 1862-1932--Correspondence.
Sargent, Fred W. (Fred Wesley), 1876-1940--Correspondence.
Schiff, Jacob H. (Jacob Henry), 1847-1920--Correspondence.
Shaw, Bernard, 1856-1950--Correspondence.
White, William Allen, 1868-1944--Correspondence.
Williamson, William, 1875-1972--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959--Correspondence.

Organizations
Oglala Sioux Tribe.
Progressive Party (U.S. : 1912)
Republican Party (U.S. : 1854- )
Subjects
Aeronautics--Societies, etc.
Freemasonry.
Highway planning.
Indians of North America--Government relations.
Indians of North America--South Dakota.
Memorials--Georgia.
Memorials--South Dakota.
Military aeronautics equipment industry.
 Presidents--Monuments--United States.
Progressivism (United States politics)
Sculpture, American.
World War, 1914-1918--United States--Equipment and supplies.

Places
Mount Rushmore National Memorial (S.D.)
Pine Ridge Indian Reservation (S.D.)
Stone Mountain Memorial State Park (Ga.)
United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Occupations
Artists.
Authors.
Sculptors.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Gutzon Borglum, artist, author, and sculptor, were given to the Library of Congress in several installments by his widow, Mary Borglum, 1951-1953, and by his son, Lincoln Borglum, 1916-1965. Additional papers were transferred from the United States National Park Service at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota in 1973. A microfilm of original material in private hands was purchased by the Library in 1953.

Processing History
The first installment of the Borglum Papers was processed in 1952. Additions were made in 1971 and 1973, and the finding aid was revised in 1979 and again in 2011. An Oversize series was created in 2015.

Transfers
Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Related Material
Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Solon Hannibal Borglum, also a sculptor and the younger brother of Gutzon Borglum.

Copyright Status
Copyright in the unpublished writings of Gutzon Borglum in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Gutzon Borglum are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.
A microfilm edition of part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Gutzon Borglum Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1867, Mar. 25</td>
<td>Born near Bear Lake, Idaho</td>
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<tr>
<td>1890-1893</td>
<td>Studied art in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>Married Mary Williams Montgomery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Helped organize the Association of American Painters and Sculptors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912-1916</td>
<td>Active in Progressive Party politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1915-1925</td>
<td>Worked on Stone Mountain, Ga., Confederate memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Initiated investigation of United States military aircraft production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927-1941</td>
<td>Worked on Mount Rushmore sculpture, Black Hills, S. Dak.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941, Mar. 6</td>
<td>Died, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Gutzon Borglum (1867-1941) born John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum, span the years 1895-1960, with the bulk concentrated in the period 1912-1941. Consisting of diaries, general and family correspondence, financial matter, subject files, and other personal material, the papers include an addition containing records of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission transferred from the National Park Service at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. The collection documents Borglum's artistic career as well as activities in such diverse fields as politics in the Republican and Progressive parties, as a member of several aeronautical societies, as a freemason, civic affairs including highway planning, and Indian affairs pertaining primarily to the Oglala Sioux Indians of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, S.D., and is organized into seven series: Diaries, Family Papers, General Correspondence, Subject File, Speeches and Articles, Miscellany, Addition, and Oversize.

The most extensive files concerning Borglum's most ambitious and best-known projects, an uncompleted memorial to the Confederacy at Stone Mountain, Georgia, and the faces of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt on Mount Rushmore. There is also a great deal of correspondence and related papers concerning the investigation of the aircraft manufacturing industry in 1918 that Borglum had instigated.

The papers also contain a small group of correspondence exchanged by various members of Borglum's family, Borglum's financial papers, and a number of his speeches and articles. Prominent among the correspondents are Henry Harley Arnold, Newton Diehl Baker, Calvin Coolidge, Josephus Daniels, Daniel Chester French, Warren G. Harding, Herbert Hoover, Harold L. Ickes, Robert Todd Lincoln, Auguste Rodin, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, Jacob H. Schiff,
George Bernard Shaw, William Allen White, Woodrow Wilson, and Frank Lloyd Wright. A small part of his correspondence, including letters from presidents and other notables, is also available on microfilm.

The Addition series, 1920-1941, is comprised of the records of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission. Dated chiefly from 1930 to 1940, the records contain the correspondence of Borglum as sculptor and director of the project; his son, Lincoln Borglum, superintendent; John A. Boland, commission secretary; and others. Also included are telegrams, speeches, newspaper clippings, contracts, blueprints, audit reports, annual reports, treasurer's reports, brochures, charts, printed matter, and miscellaneous material. The records are concerned with the commission's funding, promotion and publicity of the project, project expenditures, the appointment of commissioners, and the placement of the commission under the Department of the Interior. Among the correspondents are George W. Norris, Key Pittman, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Julius Rosenwald, Fred Sargent, and William Williamson.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- Diaries, 1899-1920
- Family Papers, 1895-1947
- General Correspondence, 1895-1952
- Subject File, 1895-1960
- Speeches and Articles, 1915-1941
- Miscellany
- Addition, 1920-1941
- Oversize, circa 1930-1940
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-2</td>
<td>Diaries, 1899-1920</td>
<td>Diaries, appointment books, and address books. Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Family Papers, 1895-1947</td>
<td>Letters exchanged by various members of the Borglum family. Arranged alphabetically by name of family member.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4-50</td>
<td>General Correspondence, 1895-1952</td>
<td>Letters sent and received. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization. <em>Includes one reel of miscellaneous correspondence relating especially to aeronautical industries during World War I available only on microfilm, shelf no. 10,378.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 51-130</td>
<td>Subject File, 1895-1960</td>
<td>Correspondence, reports, printed matter and other material. Grouped by subject or work project, with works arranged alphabetically by name of project or location.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 131-136</td>
<td>Speeches and Articles, 1915-1941</td>
<td>Texts of speeches and writings. Speeches are arranged chronologically; articles are arranged alphabetically by title.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 137-148</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
<td>Biographical material, printed matter, and miscellaneous files. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 149-191</td>
<td>Addition, 1920-1941</td>
<td>Records of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission relating to Borglum. Organized into a chronological file arranged chiefly by year and therein alphabetically, and a general file arranged by subject, name of person or organization, or type of material.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1</td>
<td>Oversize, circa 1930-1940</td>
<td>Blueprints, drawings, and plans. Described according to the series and containers from which the items were removed.</td>
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## Container List

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Contents</th>
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</table>
| BOX 1-2   | **Diaries, 1899-1920**  
  Diaries, appointment books, and address books. 
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | Diary  
  1899-1901, 1904  
  1907, 1916, 1920  
  Appointment books  
  1904, 1907, 1909, 1919 |
| BOX 2     | 1920, undated  
  Address books |
| BOX 3     | **Family Papers, 1895-1947**  
  Letters exchanged by various members of the Borglum family. 
Arranged alphabetically by name of family member. |
| BOX 3     | Andrews, Augusta  
  Borglum, Ida  
  Borglum, August  
  Borglum, Frank  
  Borglum, Harriet  
  Borglum, James  
  Borglum, James Mothe  
  Borglum, Lincoln  
  Borglum, Louise  
  Borglum, Mary  
  Borglum, Mary Ellis  
  Borglum, Monice  
  Darlow, Anna Borglum  
  Michaelsen, William P.  
  Montgomery, George R. |
| BOX 4-50  | **General Correspondence, 1895-1952**  
  Letters sent and received. 
Arranged alphabetically by name of person or organization. *Includes one reel of miscellaneous correspondence relating especially to aeronautical industries during World War I available only on microfilm, shelf no. 10,378.* |
| BOX 4     | "A" miscellaneous |
| BOX 5     | "A" miscellaneous  
  American Numismatic Society  
  Arnold, Henry Harley  
  "B" miscellaneous |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>&quot;B&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>&quot;B&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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</tbody>
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| BOX 8     | "B" miscellaneous  
Baer, John M.  
Bailey, David  
Bailie, Robert A.  
Baker, Newton Diehl  
Barlow, Lester  
Beinicke, Edwin  
Bell, Marian  
Bendix, Ernest |
| BOX 9     | Bendix, Ernest  
Bianco, L. Del  
Boland, John A.  
Borgard, Martin  
Bourbon, Don Luis de  
Bovard, John  
Bromo-Seltzer  
Brotherhood Investment Co.  
"C" miscellaneous |
| BOX 10    | "C" miscellaneous |
| BOX 11    | "C" miscellaneous |
| BOX 12    | Caldwell and Co.  
Century of Progress Commission  
Clark, John  
Colt, Samuel  
Coolidge, Calvin  
The Craftsman  
Curtis, Frazier  
"D" miscellaneous |
| BOX 13    | "D" miscellaneous |
| BOX 14    | Daniels, Josephus  
Davis, Everly M.  
Davis, Robert H.  
Dresser, F. J. C.  
Durham, Plato  
"E" miscellaneous |
| BOX 15    | "E" miscellaneous  
Eakins, L. C. D.  
East Butte Extension Copper Mining Co.  
Emerson Bureau  
Enters, Angna |
| BOX 16    | "F" miscellaneous |
| BOX 17    | "F" miscellaneous  
Faatz, Loranna B.  
Frémont, Jessie B. |
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<td>BOX 18</td>
<td>&quot;G&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 19</td>
<td>Getts, Clark</td>
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<td>BOX 20</td>
<td>&quot;H&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 21</td>
<td>“H” miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 22</td>
<td>Haines, Lynn</td>
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<td>BOX 23</td>
<td>&quot;J&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 24</td>
<td>&quot;K&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 25</td>
<td>&quot;L&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 26</td>
<td>&quot;Mc&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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French, Daniel Chester
Freshel, Curtis
Fuller, W. W.
General Correspondence, 1895-1952

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<th>Container</th>
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<td>McCarthy, Alice</td>
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<td>McCord, Lawrence</td>
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<td>McDonald, Eugene F., Jr.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>McIntyre, Florence M.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>McKillip, Walker and Co.</td>
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<td>McLean, Augus W.</td>
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<td>MacMurphy, Dempster</td>
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<td>BOX 27</td>
<td>&quot;M&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 28</td>
<td>&quot;M&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 29</td>
<td>&quot;M&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 30</td>
<td>Mahany, Rowland B.</td>
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<td>BOX 31</td>
<td>Mahony, A. L.</td>
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<td>BOX 32</td>
<td>Mason, Leila</td>
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<td>BOX 33</td>
<td>Maverick, Maury</td>
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<td>BOX 34</td>
<td>Means, Gaston B.</td>
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<td>BOX 35</td>
<td>Mechlin, Leila</td>
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<td>BOX 36</td>
<td>Medallic Art Co.</td>
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<td>BOX 37</td>
<td>Meloney, Marie M.</td>
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<td>BOX 38</td>
<td>Metz, Herman A.</td>
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<td>BOX 39</td>
<td>Meyer, Eugene, Jr.</td>
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<td>BOX 40</td>
<td>Moore, David P.</td>
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<td>BOX 41</td>
<td>Morgan, Charles M.</td>
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<td>BOX 42</td>
<td>Myrick, Herbert</td>
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<td>BOX 43</td>
<td>&quot;N&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 44</td>
<td>National Academy of Design</td>
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<td>BOX 45</td>
<td>National Lecture Bureau</td>
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<td>BOX 46</td>
<td>National Sculpture Society</td>
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<td>BOX 47</td>
<td>National Small Sculpture Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 48</td>
<td>Nocquet, Paul</td>
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<td>BOX 49</td>
<td>&quot;O&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 50</td>
<td>Ohmer, Will I.</td>
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<td>BOX 51</td>
<td>&quot;P&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 52</td>
<td>&quot;P&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>BOX 53</td>
<td>Paderewski, Jan</td>
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<td>BOX 54</td>
<td>Pan American Trade Committee</td>
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<td>BOX 55</td>
<td>Phelps, E. R.</td>
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<td>BOX 56</td>
<td>Philip and Leedom</td>
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<td>BOX 57</td>
<td>Photogravure and Color Co.</td>
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<td>BOX 58</td>
<td>Poe, Clarence</td>
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<td>BOX 59</td>
<td>Poore, Henry R.</td>
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<td>BOX 60</td>
<td>Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.</td>
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<td>BOX 61</td>
<td>Purdy, W. F.</td>
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<td>BOX 62</td>
<td>&quot;Q&quot; miscellaneous</td>
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<td>Container</td>
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| **BOX 38** | "R" miscellaneous  
Randolph, Hollins  
Rayford, Judy  
Reed, James A.  
Robinson, Doane  
Robinson, William Jay  
Rodin, Auguste  
Rolvaag, Ole E.  
Roosevelt, Franklin D.  
Roosevelt, Theodore  
Root, Elihu  
Royal Society of Arts  
Rumely, Edward A. |
| **BOX 39** | "S" miscellaneous |
| **BOX 40** | "S" miscellaneous |
| **BOX 41** | "S" miscellaneous |
| **BOX 42** | Saint Albans, Mary  
Schiff, Jacob H.  
Schiff, Mortimer L.  
Shaddix, W. L.  
Shaw, George Bernard  
Singer, Isidor  
Smith, S. Sidney  
Spoonts, Lorine |
| **BOX 43** | Stephenson, David C. |
| **BOX 44** | "T" miscellaneous  
Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Tex.  
Texas, University of, Austin, Tex.  
Tucker, J. G. |
| **BOX 45** | Tucker, J. G.  
Turner, Winifred  
"U" miscellaneous  
"V" miscellaneous  
Venable, Samuel H.  
Villa, Hugo  
"W" miscellaneous |
| **BOX 46** | "W" miscellaneous |
| **BOX 47** | "W" miscellaneous  
Warburg, Felix M.  
Warburg, Paul M. |
| **BOX 48** | Weaver, Sarah S.  
Webb, David W.  
Webb, George T.  
Weihe, Mabel |
Westbrook, Lawrence
White, William Allen
Whitman, Royal E.
Williams, Mrs. Marshall
Willis, Francis W.
Willis, G. F.
Wilson, E. P.
Wilson, Woodrow

**BOX 49**
Wood, Leonard
Woodruff, Roy O.
Woodward, Scott
World War Veterans
Wright, Frank Lloyd
"Y" miscellaneous
"Z" miscellaneous
Unidentified correspondence

**BOX 50**
Partial record of letters and telegrams sent and received, 1896-1940
Miscellaneous correspondence primarily concerning Borglum's work as a sculptor, his investigation into government contracts with aeronautical industries during World War I, and various political activities, 1903-1952 Available only on microfilm, shelf no. 10,378. Original items in private hands

**BOX 51-130**
**Subject File, 1895-1960**
Correspondence, reports, printed matter and other material.
Grouped by subject or work project, with works arranged alphabetically by name of project or location.

**BOX 51-53**
Aircraft

**BOX 54-60**
Aircraft, investigation (1918)

**BOX 61**
Association of American Painters and Sculptors
Boer War
Bok, Edward William, peace plan
Boxing
Cuba
Czechoslovakia

**BOX 62**
Czechoslovakia
Daugherty, Harry M.
Deepsea Exploration and Salvage Corp.
Denmark
Exhibitions
Financial papers
1896-1899

**BOX 63**
1900-1907

**BOX 64**
1908-1914

**BOX 65**
1915-1920

**BOX 66**
1921-1939

**BOX 67**
1940-1941, undated
Flood control
Foundries
Furniture
Granite companies
Greece

**BOX 68**
Highways

**BOX 69**
Highways

**BOX 70**
Highways
Indian affairs

**BOX 71**
Indian affairs
International Air Service Club
International Sporting Club

**BOX 72**
International Sporting Club

**BOX 73**
International Sporting Club
Lincoln, Abraham
Marble
Masonic papers
1907-1908
1909-1910
1911-1936, undated
Printed matter

**BOX 76**
Printed matter
Mines
Models
National Arts Club
Nocquet, Paul

**BOX 77**
Nocquet, Paul

**BOX 78**
Nocquet, Paul
Norbeck, Peter
Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, Calif.
Parks and playgrounds
1902-1910
1910-1911
1912-1924

**BOX 79**
1910-1911
**BOX 80**
1922-1928

**BOX 81**
Peace, hundredth anniversary
Poetry
Poland

**BOX 82**
Politics
1910-1916
1916-1922

**BOX 83**
1922-1928

**BOX 84**
1929-1933, undated
Undated

**BOX 85**
Progressive Party

**BOX 86**
Progressive Party
Roosevelt Memorial Association
Rumely, Edward A.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| BOX 87    | Rumely, Edward A.  
|           | Schlitz, John M.  
|           | South Dakota Golden Jubilee  
|           | Stamford, Conn., studio |
| BOX 88    | Stamford, Conn., studio |
| BOX 89    | Stamford, Conn., studio  
|           | Station Taxi Co.  
|           | Stephenson, D. C.  
|           | Texas |
| BOX 90    | Works  
|           | Altgeld, John, memorial  
|           | American Red Cross medallions  
|           | Atlas  
|           | Aviation memorial  
|           | Aycock memorial, Raleigh, N.C. |
| BOX 91    | Beecher memorial  
|           | Bennett School memorial  
|           | Bobbs memorial  
|           | Bolivar monument  
|           | Brooklyn Bridge entrance  
|           | Bryan memorial  
|           | Butterfield monument  
|           | Capitol, Washington, D.C. |
| BOX 92    | Children's Founders Roll medallion  
|           | Colt memorial  
|           | Columbus fountain  
|           | Coronado memorial  
|           | Corpus Christi, Tex., bayfront |
| BOX 93    | Corpus Christi, Tex., bayfront |
| BOX 94    | Corpus Christi, Tex., bayfront |
| BOX 95    | Corpus Christi, Tex., bayfront |
| BOX 96    | Davenport memorial  
|           | Ellsworth bust  
|           | Ffoulke monument  
|           | Fort Worth, Tex., statue  
|           | Fredericksburg monument  
|           | Geographic Hispanic Society monument  
|           | George altar  
|           | Gettysburg, Pa., memorial |
| BOX 97    | Goethals memorial  
|           | Maximo Gomez monument  
|           | Grant memorial  
|           | Hermosa cantonment  
|           | William Dempster Hoard memorial  
|           | Houston memorial  
<p>|           | Hubbard memorial |</p>
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