

Edward William Bok Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79013128>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007067>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2007
Revised 2023 February

Collection Summary

Title: Edward William Bok Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1880-1926

Bulk Dates: 1920-1925

ID No.: MSS13128

Creator: Bok, Edward William, 1863-1930

Extent: 20 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79013128>

Summary: Author, editor, reformer, and philanthropist. Correspondence, autograph albums featuring prominent American literary, military, and political figures, and writings by Bok. Also included is a manuscript by Jessie Benton Frémont relating to the death of her husband, John C. Frémont.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bok, Edward William, 1863-1930.

Bok, Edward William, 1863-1930. Americanization of Edward Bok. 1920.

Bok, Edward William, 1863-1930. Man from Maine. 1923.

Bok, Edward William, 1863-1930. Twice thirty: some short and simple annals of the road. 1925.

Curtis, Cyrus Hermann Kotzschmar, 1850-1933.

Frémont, Jessie Benton, 1824-1902.

Frémont, John Charles, 1813-1890.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Organizations

Curtis Publishing Company.

Subjects

Armed Forces--Officers--Autographs.

Authors--Autographs.

Autographs--Collections.

Politicians--Autographs.

Publishers and publishing.

Women's periodicals, American.

Titles

Ladies' home journal.

Occupations

Authors.

Editors.

Philanthropists.

Reformers.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Edward William Bok, author, editor, reformer, and philanthropist, were given to the Library of Congress in 1966-1970 by his wife, Mary L. Curtis Bok. Additional items were purchased by the Library from 1968 to 1972 and in 2013.

Processing History

The papers of Edward William Bok were arranged and described by Richard Bickel and Allan Teichroew in 1980. Additional material received between 1968 and 1972 was processed in 2007 by Connie L. Cartledge. Material received in 2013 was processed as an addition in 2019 by Laney Stevenson. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward William Bok 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 Edward William Bok 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.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edward William Bok Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1863, 9 Oct.	Born, Helder, Netherlands
1870	Arrived in the United States Entered public school, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1884	Entered employ of Charles Scribner's Sons as stenographer Became editor of <i>Brooklyn Magazine</i>
1886	Founded the Bok Syndicated Press
1889	Became editor of <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i>
1896	Married Mary Louise Curtis
1907	LL.D. degree conferred by order of Pope Pius X, Villanova College, Villanova, Pa.
1917	State chairman for Pennsylvania of YMCA War Work Council
1919	Relinquished editorship of <i>Ladies' Home Journal</i>
1920	Published <i>The Americanization of Edward Bok</i> . New York: C. Scribner's Sons
1923	Published <i>A Man From Maine</i> . New York: C. Scribner's Sons
1925	Published <i>Twice Thirty</i> . New York: C. Scribner's Sons
1930	Died, Lake Wales, Fla.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edward William Bok (1863-1930) span the years 1880-1926, with the bulk of the material dating from 1920 to 1925. The papers consist of a handwritten draft of Bok's Pulitzer Prize-winning autobiography, *The Americanization of Edward Bok* (1920); a biography of Bok's father-in-law, Cyrus Hermann Kotschmar Curtis, *A Man From Maine* (1923); and another autobiographical work, *Twice Thirty* (1925).

Also included in the Bok Papers are the typescript of *The Americanization of Edward Bok* and autograph albums dated 1880-1889. The autograph collection is made up of signatures of prominent American political, military, and literary figures. The collection contains letters to Bok as editor of the *Ladies' Home Journal* and a writing by Jessie Benton Frémont relating to the death of her husband, John C. Frémont. The manuscript was sent to Bok and is accompanied by a brief cover letter from Jessie Benton Frémont. The 2019 Addition is a letter dated September 6, 1882, from Civil War General William T. Sherman responding to Bok, with his opinion on the adage "the pen is mightier than the sword" and referencing Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Autograph albums, 1880-1889 (4 folders)
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1892-1926
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	By Bok
BOX 1	<i>Americanization of Edward Bok</i> (1920), 1920
BOX 1	Handwritten draft
BOX 2	Typescript (9 folders)
BOX 2	<i>Man from Maine</i> (1923), 1922 (3 folders)
BOX 3	<i>Twice Thirty</i> (1925), 1925 (7 folders)
BOX 3	By Jessie Benton Frémont, with cover letter by Frémont, 1901
BOX 3	2019 Addition
BOX 3	Correspondence, 1882