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.
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Copyright in the unpublished writings of Edward William Bok in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.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 *Brooklyn Magazine*                                                     
1886          Founded the Bok Syndicated Press                                                             
1889          Became editor of *Ladies' Home Journal*                                                     
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 *Ladies' Home Journal*                                          
1920          Published *The Americanization of Edward Bok*. New York: C. Scribner's Sons               
1923          Published *A Man From Maine*. New York: C. Scribner's Sons                                 
1925          Published *Twice Thirty*. New York: C. Scribner's Sons                                      
1930          Died, Lake Wales, Fla.                                                                     

Edward William Bok Papers
**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 Kotzschmar 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

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