

Rodolfo R. Schuller Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82039131>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009150>

Prepared by Howard F. Cline and Karen Linn Femia

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
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Collection Summary

Title: Rodolfo R. Schuller Papers

Span Dates: 1492-1915

ID No.: MSS39131

Creator: Schuller, Rodolfo R., 1873-1932

Extent: 3,500 items

Extent: 22 containers

Extent: 11.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in Spanish, Portugese, German, English, and Mexican, Central and South American Indian languages

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82039131>

Summary: Americanist and linguist. Chiefly files comprised of copies of documents from various repositories, original manuscripts, and notes based on Schuller's linguistic research in Mexico and Central and South America, including archaeological and ethnographic material, clippings, maps, and photographs.

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

Frič, Alberto Vojtěch, 1882-1944. Alberto Vojtěch Frič papers.

Hartt, Charles Frederick, 1840-1878. Charles Frederick Hartt papers.

Schuller, Rodolfo R., 1873-1932.

Subjects

Archaeology--Central America.

Archaeology--Mexico.

Archaeology--South America.

Cartography.

Ethnology--Central America.

Ethnology--Mexico.

Ethnology--South America.

Indians of Central America--Languages.

Indians of Mexico--Languages.

Indians of South America--Languages.

Linguistics--Central America.

Linguistics--Mexico.

Linguistics--South America.

Places

Amazon River Region--Discovery and exploration.

Brazil--Discovery and exploration.

Central America--Maps.

Latin America--Discovery and exploration.

Mexico--Maps.

South America--Maps.

Occupations

Linguists.

Provenance

The papers of Rodolfo R. Schuller, Americanist and linguist, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1913 and delivered to the Library in three installments between 1913 and 1915. A portion was transferred to the Manuscript Division from the Latin American, Portuguese and Spanish Division in 1976.

Processing History

The papers of Rodolfo R. Schuller were outlined in topical order by Howard F. Cline in 1960. The collection was expanded and revised in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

An item list using the descriptions written by Schuller when he delivered the papers to the Library, with an addition by Karen Linn Femia, is available in the Manuscript Reading Room.

Transfers

A cartographic bibliography and many maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division where they are identified as part of the Rodolfo R. Schuller Papers.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Rodolfo R. Schuller can be found in the Carl A. Kroch Library of Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., and the Latin American Library of Tulane University, New Orleans, La.

Copyright Status

It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Rodolfo R. Schuller 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, Rodolfo R. Schuller, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1873, Dec. 25	Born Rudolf Riemel Schuller near Vienna, Austria
circa 1893	Came to the Americas
1899	Defended his doctoral dissertation, school unknown

1904	In Montevideo, Uruguay. Spent time in Buenos Aires, Argentina, either before or after Montevideo
1906-1907	Published several articles in Santiago, Chile
1908	Worked on the border dispute between Peru and Bolivia
1909	Employed by the library of the Museum Emilio Goeldi, Belém do Pará, Brazil Nominated a corresponding member of the Brazilian Historic and Geographic Institute while in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1911	Developed project for the National Library, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Traveled to Madrid and Seville, Spain
1912	Attended the Eighteenth Congress of Americanists, London, England Resigned his position at the Museum Emilio Goeldi because the state government of Pará, Brazil, could no longer pay his salary
1913	Attended the Nineteenth Congress of Americanists, Washington, D.C., as a delegate from the National Library, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1914	Probably in Bahia, Brazil
circa 1915-1917	In Chicago, Ill.
1917-1921	Returned to and lived mostly in Vienna, Austria, following the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Austria
1921-circa 1929	Lived in Mexico City and researched indigenous groups for the Mexican government; affiliated with the Anthropology Department, National University of Mexico
1925	Visited San Salvador
1926	In New Orleans, La.; returned to Mexico
1928	Visited San José, Costa Rica, and Guatemala
1929	Worked at Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
1932, Jan. 18	Died while attending a conference, Barranquilla, Colombia

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Rodolfo R. Schuller (1873-1932) span the years 1492-1915. Almost all documents dated earlier than the twentieth century are handwritten copies of documents made by Schuller between 1908 and 1915. The original documents resided in repositories in Europe and North and South America. In addition to copying documents, Schuller created an extensive bibliography. The historical documents pertain to native languages and cultures of Latin America, cartography, and the discovery and exploration of the New World. Original research and field notes by Schuller, mostly concerning linguistic matters, and many lengthy, unpublished manuscripts by Schuller are also included among his papers. Documents are in Spanish, Portuguese, German, and English as well as Central and South American Indian languages. The papers are particularly strong in Brazilian/Amazonian topics.

When the Schuller Papers came to the Library of Congress, they were kept in the order in which they arrived. In 1960 Howard F. Cline, director of the Hispanic Foundation, outlined a topical order for the papers. The present arrangement is based upon the Cline outline and incorporates a large bibliographic card file that had been separated from the rest of the collection in 1913.

The papers are divided into two series: a [Linguistic File](#) and a [Non-linguistic File](#). Items in the first series pertain to one or more native Latin American languages. Although items occasionally compare two or three languages, this is not evident from the container list alone, and the appendix should also be consulted. The Non-linguistic File is a mixture of historical, cartographic, anthropological, and bibliographical material.

The Schuller Papers also contain material from anthropologist Alberto Vojtěch Frič (1882-1944) who worked mostly in the Amazon region of Brazil (see items 34, 39, 78-93, 108 and 178). Included are unpublished manuscripts, a collection of myths, ethnographic notes, and photographs. Item 208 is a collection of original letters, 1871-1878, written by American geologist Charles Frederick Hartt (1840-1878). See also items 35, 41.7, 51, and 95 for Hartt's notes on linguistic matters.

Biographical information on Schuller is both scarce and incomplete. The information used for the Biographical Note was taken from Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, *Inventário Analítico do Fundo Rudolf Schuller* (Belém, 1987), pp.84-86.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in two series:

- [Linguistic File, circa 1500-1915](#)
- [Non-linguistic File, 1492-1915](#)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-6

Series

Linguistic File, circa 1500-1915

Copies of documents from various repositories, original manuscripts, and notes based on Schuller's linguistic research.

Arranged in three sections: general, Mexico and Central America, and South America.

Organized alphabetically therein by name of language or location.

BOX 6-22

Non-linguistic File, 1492-1915

Copies of documents from various repositories, original manuscripts and notes, maps, photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and a bibliographic card file.

Arranged in three topical sections: discovery and exploration, Luso-Brazilian material, and miscellany.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-6	Linguistic File, circa 1500-1915 Copies of documents from various repositories, original manuscripts, and notes based on Schuller's linguistic research. Arranged in three sections: general, Mexico and Central America, and South America. Organized alphabetically therein by name of language or location.
BOX 1 ITEM 1-7	General, 1595, 1788, 1869, 1912-1913, undated (7 folders)
BOX 1	Mexico and Central America
BOX 1	General, 1608, 1874-1883, undated
BOX 1 ITEM 8-10	General, 1608, 1874-1883, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1 ITEM [11]	General, 1608, 1874-1883, undated [See items 197-205]
BOX 1 ITEM 12-15	General, 1608, 1874-1883, undated (4 folders)
BOX 1	Groups and languages
BOX 1 ITEM 16	Black Carib, 1833, 1913
BOX 1 ITEM 17	Chiapeneca, 1883, undated
BOX 1 ITEM 18	Cholti, 1913
BOX 1 ITEM 19-21	Chorotega; Mangué, 1842, 1874, 1910-1912, undated (3 folders)
BOX 1 ITEM 21a	Huave, undated
BOX 1 ITEM 21b	Ixil, 1913
BOX 1 ITEM 22	Matagalpa, 1855, 1874, undated
BOX 1 ITEM 23-26	Maya, 1866-1868, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1 ITEM 27	Nahuatl, 1913
BOX 1 ITEM 28	Quiché, 1854, 1912
BOX 1 ITEM 29-30	Talamanca, 1867, 1895, undated
BOX 1 ITEM 31	Tzotzil, 1869, 1912
BOX 1 ITEM 32	Xinca, 1868, 1913
BOX 1 ITEM 33	Zapotec, 1871, undated
BOX 2	South America
BOX 2 ITEM 34-40	General, circa 1500, 1550, 1905-1915, undated (7 folders)
BOX 2	Groups and languages
BOX 2 ITEM 41.1	Achagua, Colombia, 1912, undated
BOX 2 ITEM 41.2-41.3	Amaga, Peru, 1912, undated
BOX 2 ITEM 41.4-41.7	Amazonas, general, circa 1680-1787, circa 1874, 1910-1912, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2 ITEM 41.8-45a	Amuéscha, E. Peru, 1908, undated (5 folders)

Linguistic File, circa 1500-1915

Container	Contents
BOX 3 ITEM 46-47	Argentina, general, 1746, 1912, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3 ITEM 48	Atacama, Chile, 1557, undated
BOX 3 ITEM 49	Betoya, NE Brazil, S. Colombia, undated
BOX 3 ITEM 50	Bolivia, general, 1883, 1913
BOX 3 ITEM 51-60	Botocudo/Camacan, Brazil, 1824-1825, 1852, 1867-1868, 1889, 1912-1913, undated (8 folders)
BOX 3 ITEM 61	Camé, Brazil, 1868, undated
BOX 3 ITEM 62-64	Campa, E. Peru, 1870, 1907-1908, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3 ITEM 65	Caraja, undated
BOX 4 ITEM 66-68	Carib-Aruác, general, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4 ITEM 69-70	Cariri/Kiriri, Brazil, 1911-1914 (2 folders)
BOX 4 ITEM 71	Cayapa/Colorado, Ecuador, 1892, 1913
BOX 4 ITEM 72	Chipaya/Curuahé, Brazil, 1913
BOX 4 ITEM 73	Cholona, Peru, undated
BOX 4 ITEM 74	Comenchingon and Sanviron, undated
BOX 4 ITEM 75	Cueva, Colombia/Panama, undated
BOX 4 ITEM 76	Haitano, 1875, undated
BOX 4 ITEM 77	Inapari, Peru, 1903
BOX 4 ITEM 78-93	Kaingan/Caingangue, Brazil, 1909, undated (6 folders)
BOX 4	Mapuche/Araucano, Chile, 1906-1907, undated
BOX 4 ITEM 94a	(1 folder)
BOX 5 ITEM 94b	(1 folder)
BOX 5 ITEM 95	Mundurucu and Maue, Brazil, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 96-97	Peru, general, 1819, 1908-1909, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 98	Piró, Peru, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 99-100	Quechua, 1908, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 101	Saliva, 1745, 1911
BOX 5 ITEM 102-104	Tacana, Bolivia, 1859-1863, 1910-1911
BOX 5 ITEM 105	Tehuelche, Patagonia, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 106	Tiatinagua, Peru, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 107-111	Tupi/Guaraní, 1740, circa 1897, 1912, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5 ITEM 112	Twaka, Panama, 1871, undated
BOX 5 ITEM 113-114	Uruguay, general, 1532, 1692, 1866-1881, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5 ITEM 115	Venezuela, general, 1886, 1913
BOX 5 ITEM 116-118	Xebero, circa 1760, 1912-1913, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 6 ITEM 119-121	(2 folders)

Linguistic File, circa 1500-1915

Container	Contents
BOX 6 ITEM 122	Yaghan, Patagonia, 1883, 1915
BOX 6 ITEM 123	Yahua, Amazonas, 1870, undated
BOX 6 ITEM 124	Yamiaca, Peru, 1903, undated
BOX 6 ITEM 125	Yengahiba, Peru/Brazil, 1681, undated
BOX 6 ITEM 126	Záparo, Amazonas, 1870, 1913
BOX 6-22	Non-linguistic File, 1492-1915 Copies of documents from various repositories, original manuscripts and notes, maps, photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and a bibliographic card file. Arranged in three topical sections: discovery and exploration, Luso-Brazilian material, and miscellany.
BOX 6	Discovery and exploration
BOX 6 ITEM 127-129	General, 1492-1565, 1912-1915, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	Cartographers and cartography, circa 1504-1529, circa 1536-1550, 1573-circa 1579, 1656, 1749, 1759, 1886-1892, 1914-1915, undated
BOX 6 ITEM [130]	[Transferred to Geography and Map Division in 1940]
BOX 6131-132	[Transferred to Geography and Map Division in 1940] (2 folders)
BOX 6 ITEM [133]	[Missing]
BOX 6 ITEM 134-135	[Missing] (2 folders)
BOX 7 ITEM 136-147	[Missing] (12 folders)
BOX 7 ITEM [148]	[Transferred to Geography and Map Division in 1961]
BOX 7 ITEM 149	[Transferred to Geography and Map Division in 1961] (1 folder)
BOX 8	Individual figures
BOX 8 ITEM 150-151b	Columbus, 1513-1515, 1915, undated (3 folders)
BOX 8 ITEM 152	Cabral, 1501, undated
BOX 8 ITEM 153-157	Díaz de Solís, Juan, 1512-1516, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8 ITEM 158	Ordaz, Diego, 1532, undated
BOX 8 ITEM 159-160	Pinzón and Lepe, 1501-1510, 1892-1894, 1912, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8 ITEM 161-162	Santa Cruz, Alonso, 1503-1570, 1911-1912, undated [Some items from No. 161 were transferred to Geography and Map Division circa 1940] (3 folders)
BOX 9 ITEM 163	Teixeira, undated
BOX 9 ITEM [164-165]	[Missing]
BOX 9 ITEM 166	Vespucius, Americus, undated
BOX 9	Luso-Brazilian materials
BOX 9 ITEM 167-178	General, 1512, 1555, 1626-1641, 1780, 1910-1912, undated (7 folders)
BOX 9	Amazon region, 1532, 1614-circa 1642, 1766, 1911-1912, undated
BOX 9	(6 folders)

Non-linguistic File, 1492-1915

Container	Contents
ITEM 179-187	
BOX 10	(4 folders)
ITEM 188-193	
BOX 10	Miscellany
BOX 10	Bibliography
BOX 10 ITEM 194-196	Notes, undated (3 folders)
BOX 11	Card files, circa 1913
BOX 11 ITEM 197	Latin American Indian languages
BOX 11 ITEM 198	Photographic reproductions
BOX 11	Various subjects
BOX 11 ITEM 199	Part A
BOX 12 ITEM 199	Part B
BOX 13 ITEM 199	Part C
BOX 13	History of western hemispheric discovery
BOX 13 ITEM 200	A-J
BOX 14 ITEM 200	K-Z
BOX 15 ITEM 201	Linguistics and lexicology
BOX 15 ITEM 202	"Documents"
BOX 15 ITEM 203	"Anonymous"
BOX 15	"Bibliographia Americanum"
BOX 15 ITEM 204	Part A
BOX 16 ITEM 204	Part B
BOX 17 ITEM 204	Part C
BOX 17	Miscellaneous
BOX 17 ITEM 205	Part A
BOX 18 ITEM 205	Part B
BOX 19 ITEM 206	Checklists, 1913-1915
BOX 19 ITEM 207	"Deutsche Kulturarbeit in Süd-Amerika," by Schuller, undated
BOX 19 ITEM 208	Hartt, Charles Frederick, correspondence, 1871-1878, undated
BOX 19 ITEM 209	Mexican immigration in Yucatán, 1618, undated
BOX 19 ITEM 210	"Miscellanea Sudamericana," by Schuller, undated
BOX 19 ITEM 211	Mútis, Don José Celestino, biographical material, 1808, 1912
BOX 19	Newspaper clippings, 1891, 1907-1915, undated
BOX 19	(2 folders)
ITEM 212	
BOX 20	(5 folders)
ITEM 212	
BOX 21	Notes and collected material, 1583, 1904-1915, undated
BOX 21	(6 folders)
ITEM 213	
BOX 22	(4 folders)
BOX 214-217	
BOX 22 ITEM 218	Nuño García de Torreño, undated
BOX 22 ITEM 219	Petition of Don Blas Zapata, undated
BOX 22 ITEM 220	"Presillg Zeytung," study material for German pamphlet, undated
BOX 22 ITEM 221	Scrapbook, 1908-1913, n.d.