Collection Summary

Title: Solon Hannibal Borglum Papers
Span Dates: 1886-1969
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1922)
ID No.: MSS13292
Creator: Borglum, Solon Hannibal, 1868-1922
Extent: 875 items
Extent: 5 containers plus 2 oversize
Extent: 2 linear feet
Extent: 1 microfilm reel
Language: Collection material in English with some French
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm77013292
Summary: Sculptor. Correspondence, commission files, subject files, articles, certificates and awards, photographs, printed matter, a scrapbook, and microfilm mostly relating to Borglum's career as a sculptor, his works of art, and his activities with the American Expeditionary Forces Art Training Center in Bellevue, France, Silvermine Group of Artists in New Canaan, Connecticut, and the School of American Sculpture in New York.

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
Borglum, Emma Vignal, 1864-1934--Correspondence.
Borglum, Solon Hannibal, 1868-1922.
Davies, Monica Borglum, 1903-1997--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919--Correspondence.
Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915--Correspondence.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations
Fort Spokane Boarding School.
Les Foyers du Soldat.
School of American Sculpture.
Silvermine Group of Artists.

Subjects
Art--Study and teaching--France.
Art--Study and teaching--New York (State)--New York.
Artist colonies--Connecticut--New Canaan.
Artists--Connecticut--New Canaan.
Children's art.
Indians of North America--Washington (State)
Sculptors--United States.
Sculpture, American.
World War, 1914-1918--Art and the war.
World War, 1914-1918--War work--France.
World War, 1914-1918--War work--Young Men's Christian associations.

Occupations
Sculptors.
Provenance

The papers of Solon Hannibal Borglum, sculptor, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughter, Monica Borglum Davies, in 1964. Additional papers were given by Davies in 1970-1973. Mrs. Davies had previously given one reel of microfilm in 1959.

Processing History

The papers of Solon Hannibal Borglum were arranged and described in 1966. The collection was expanded and revised in 1978 and 1979. The collection was partially rearranged and the finding aid revised in 2011.

Transfers

Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Solon Hannibal Borglum Papers.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Solon Hannibal Borglum can be found at the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Solon Hannibal 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 Solon Hannibal 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.

Microfilm

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 number, Solon Hannibal Borglum Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1868, Dec. 22</td>
<td>Born, Ogden, Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td>1885-1893</td>
<td>Managed ranch on his father's land in Nebraska</td>
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circa 1893-circa 1895  Studied under his brother Gutzon Borglum in California
1895-1897  Studied under Louis Rebisso, Cincinnati Art School, Cincinnati, Ohio
1897  Won scholarship to study in France
1898  Studied under Emmanuel Fremiet, Académie Julian, Paris, France
       Married Emma Vignal (died 1934)
1899  Visited Crow Creek Indian Reservation, South Dakota
1899-1900  Won silver and bronze medals, Paris Exposition, Paris, France
1899-1901  Won silver medal, Pan-American Exposition, World's Fair, Buffalo, N.Y.
1900  Won gold medal, St. Louis Exposition, St. Louis, Mo.
1906  Moved to Connecticut
       Founded school of arts in Silvermine community, New Canaan, Conn.
1907  Founded with fellow artists the Silvermine Group of Artists (originally called the "Knockers")
1918-1919  Traveled to Europe with the Young Men's Christian Association
       Director, Les Foyers du Soldat, Union Franco-Américaine
1919  Awarded Croix de Guerre for his work with the Les Foyers du Soldat, Union Franco-Américaine, during World War I
       Appointed head, Department of Sculpture, Educational Corps, American Expeditionary Forces Art Training Center, Bellevue, France
1920  Founded School of American Sculpture, New York, N.Y.
1922, Jan. 30  Died, Stamford, Conn.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Solon Hannibal Borglum (1868-1922) span the years 1886-1969, with the bulk of the papers dated from 1900 to 1922. The papers include commission files of his works of art, correspondence, subject files, articles by Borglum, certificates and awards, photographs, printed matter, a scrapbook, and microfilm.

The commission files are arranged chronologically and contain correspondence, contracts, photographs, notes, receipts, clippings, reports, and printed matter relating to the individual commissions. The general correspondence includes letters from friends and colleagues to Borglum, but also includes letters relating to commissions for art work not found in the commission files. In the special correspondence are letters from such correspondents as Theodore Roosevelt, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Booker T. Washington, and Leonard Wood, and incoming letters to Borglum's wife, Emma Vignal Borglum, and his daughter, Monica Borglum Davies. Of interest also is correspondence relating to the legal dispute with the dancer Loïe Fuller.

The subject files document Borglum's career and interests. In 1907, Borglum founded with other artists the Silvermine Group of Artists whose file contains correspondence, minutes, a rule of law, and printed ephemera. Represented also in the files is Borglum's service during World War I in France with the Young Men's Christian Association and Les Foyers du Soldat which set up canteens for soldiers on leave, and the American Expeditionary Forces Art Training Center in Bellevue, France, an institution providing instruction in the arts to American soldiers during the Armistice period. Writings by Borglum about this period and especially the American Expeditionary Forces Art Training Center are filed with the articles. There is also material on the School of American Sculpture that he founded in 1920. A scrapbook of newspaper clippings, and certificates and awards are in oversize. Microfilm in the collection contains newspaper clippings and magazine articles about Borglum, some of which are neither in the scrapbook nor the printed matter. In 1899, Borglum and his wife traveled to the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Borglum's time there influenced his art and he became best known for his depictions of frontier life, especially cowboys and Native Americans. While at the reservation, his wife kept a journal, a translation of which appears in the papers. Other related material includes drawings and watercolors, many of them signed, created by Native American schoolchildren attending the Fort Spokane Boarding School in Miles, Washington, and sent to Borglum in 1905 by F. F. Avery, a former teacher at the Crow Creek Indian Reservation.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by subject or type of material.
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<td>BOX 1</td>
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<td><em>Condor and Eagle</em>, Pan American Union Building, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>Charles A. Schieren, bust</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
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<td>Jacob Leisler Memorial, New Rochelle, N.Y.</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>71st Regiment, New York, N.Y. <a href="#">See also Container 3, Fuller, Loïe</a></td>
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