

**Solon Hannibal Borglum Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2011**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm77013292>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011086>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff  
Revised by Melinda K. Friend

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Revised 2018 November

## 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.

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces. Art Training Center.

### 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

Date	Event
1868, Dec. 22	Born, Ogden, Utah
1885-1893	Managed ranch on his father's land in Nebraska

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
1900	Won silver and bronze medals, Paris Exposition, Paris, France
1901	Won silver medal, Pan-American Exposition, World's Fair, Buffalo, N.Y.
1904	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 Loie 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.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Commissioned works (completed and proposed)
BOX 1	1905
BOX 1	Louis and Clark Exposition, Portland, Ore.
BOX 1	1906
BOX 1	<i>Bucky O'Neill, Rough Rider</i> , Prescott, Ariz.
BOX 1	1907
BOX 1	General John B. Gordon Memorial, Atlanta, Ga.
BOX 1	Women of the Confederacy
BOX 1	1908
BOX 1	George Armstrong Custer Memorial
BOX 1	1909
BOX 1	Truman J. Backus Memorial, Packer Institute, Brooklyn, N.Y.
BOX 1	Simon Newcombe, bust
BOX 1	<i>Condor and Eagle</i> , Pan American Union Building, Washington, D.C.
BOX 1	Charles A. Schieren, bust
BOX 1	1910
BOX 1	<i>Lassoing Wild Horses</i>
BOX 1	Washington in 1753
BOX 1	Governor John A. Johnson, St. Paul, Minn.
BOX 1	1911
BOX 1	Soldiers' Monument, Civil War, Danbury, Conn.
BOX 1	Leonard J. Gordon Park, entrance, Jersey City, N.J.
BOX 1	Private Jones of the Confederate army, Lynchburg, Va.
BOX 1	Benjamin Franklin
BOX 1	Alexander Hamilton
BOX 1	1912
BOX 1	James Edwin Hurley Memorial, Topeka, Kans.
BOX 1	Jacob Leisler Memorial, New Rochelle, N.Y.
BOX 1	71 <sup>st</sup> Regiment, New York, N.Y. <i>See also Container 3, Fuller, Loie</i>
BOX 1	1913
BOX 1	<i>The American Pioneer</i>
BOX 1	American Geographical Society, New York, N.Y.
BOX 1	Vicksburg Memorial, Vicksburg, Miss.
BOX 1	1916
BOX 1	Michael Glen Cuniff Memorial, Phoenix, Ariz.
BOX 1	Charles A. Schieren Memorial, <i>Azrael, the Spirit of Death</i> , Brooklyn, N.Y.
BOX 1	New York Monument Commission, monument for Gettysburg Battlefield, Gettysburg, Pa.
BOX 2	1920
BOX 2	"Little Lady of the Dew" or <i>The Waters</i>
BOX 2	Barnard College, New York, N.Y., bench
BOX 2	Correspondence

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 2	General, 1897-1921, undated (5 folders)
BOX 2	Miscellaneous, 1934
BOX 2	Special
BOX 2	Adams, Herbert, 1906
BOX 2	Borglum, Emma Vignal, 1903-1929, undated
BOX 3	Davies, Monica Borglum, 1924-1969, undated
BOX 3	Fuller, Loïe, legal case, 1903-1910, undated <i>See also Container 1, 71<sup>st</sup> Regiment</i>
BOX 3	Goodrich, Arthur, undated
BOX 3	Roosevelt, Theodore, 1907, 1916
BOX 3	Saint-Gaudens, Augustus and Homer, 1900-1908
BOX 3	Washington, Booker T., 1915
BOX 3	Williams, John Sharp, 1916
BOX 3	Wood, Leonard, 1916
BOX 3	Subject file
BOX 3	"American Expeditionary Force School of Fine Arts, Bellevue, France," report, 1919
BOX 3	Boy Scouts of America, Troop No. 1, Silvermine, Conn., 1912-1915
BOX 3	Crow Creek Indian Reservation, S. Dak., journal of Emma Vignal Borglum, translation, circa 1899
BOX 3	Death of Borglum, 1922
BOX 3	Drawings by Native American schoolchildren, Fort Spokane Boarding School, Miles, Wash., 1905
BOX 3	School of American Sculpture, New York, N.Y., 1920-1925, undated
BOX 3	Silvermine Group of Artists, 1909-1920, undated
BOX 3	Silvermine Neighbors (neighborhood association), 1913-1916, undated
BOX 4	Solon Borglum Memorial Fund and <i>Sound Construction</i> , 1920-1924, undated
BOX 4	Young Men's Christian Association and Les Foyers du Soldat, Union Franco-Américaine, 1916-1921, undated
BOX 4	Articles
BOX 4	"The A. E. F. School of Fine Arts," 1919-1920
BOX 4	"Duty of Art," undated
BOX 4	"Extracts from Notes of Criticism of Solon H. Borglum to Helen A. Robinson," undated
BOX 4	"Interior Decoration: The Art Training Centre of the A. E. F. at Bellevue, near Paris," undated
BOX 4	"Little Lady of the Dew," undated
BOX 4	"My Experiences in the Great War," as told to Borglum's half brother, August, 1919
BOX 4	"The Rebirth of France and Belgium," undated
BOX 4	Untitled, undated
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1915-1922, 1948, 1956, undated
BOX 5	Printed matter
BOX 5	Certificates, awards, and magazines, 1886, 1900-1921, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 5	Invitations, programs, and directories, 1912-1921, undated
BOX 5	Exhibit catalogues and magazines, 1902-1924, undated
BOX 5	Microfilm of newspaper clippings and magazine articles ( <i>Microfilm shelf no. 15,715</i> )
BOX 5	Scrapbook, 1897-1926, 1934 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Printed matter
BOX OV 1	Certificates, awards, and magazines, 1886, 1900-1912, 1919, undated (Container 5)

## Container List

### Container

### Contents

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BOX OV 2                      Scrapbook, 1897-1926, 1934 (Container 5)