

Arthur Family 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/mm76049577>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011190>

Prepared by Philip Avillo

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

Collection Summary

Title: Arthur Family Papers

Span Dates: 1817-1972

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1874-1972)

ID No.: MSS49577

Creator: Arthur family

Extent: 20,000 items

Extent: 75 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 31 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm76049577>

Summary: Correspondence, diaries, scrapbooks, writings, printed matter, clippings, and miscellaneous material chiefly of Chester Alan Arthur II (1864-1937), sportsman and rancher, and Chester Alan ("Gavin") Arthur III (1901-1972), author and bohemian, son and grandson respectively of President Chester Alan Arthur (1829-1886).

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

Agar, Herbert, 1897-1980--Correspondence.

Andrews family.

Andrews, Loring, 1890-1959.

Arthur family.

Arthur, Chester Alan, 1829-1886--Family.

Arthur, Chester Alan, II, 1864-1937. Chester Alan Arthur II papers. 1874-1937.

Arthur, Chester Alan, III, 1901-1972. Chester Alan Arthur III papers. 1853-1972.

Arthur, Myra Fithian Andrews, 1870-1935.

Arthur, William A., Jr., 1834-1915.

Fithian family.

Haynesworth, Malvina Ann Arthur, 1832-1916.

Sinclair, Upton, 1878-1968--Correspondence.

Watts, Alan, 1915-1973--Correspondence.

Organizations

Utopian Society of America.

Subjects

American periodicals.

Astrology.

Bohemianism.

Clubs.

Cooking.

Horses.

Hunting.

Occultism.

Poetry.

Ranches--Colorado--Costilla County.

Republicanism--Ireland--History--20th century.

Sexology--Research.

Places

Europe--Description and travel.
Ireland--Politics and government--20th century.
Trinchera Ranch (Colo.)
United States--Description and travel.

Titles

Dune forum.

Provenance

The papers of the Arthur family, consisting primarily of those of Chester Alan Arthur II (1864-1937) and Chester Alan Arthur III (1901-1972), were given to the Library of Congress by Thomas C. Reeves in 1973.

Processing History

The papers of the Arthur Family were arranged and described in 1976. The collection and finding aid were revised in 2006. The finding aid was revised again in 2011.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Arthur Family Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Arthur Family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Arthur Family 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, Arthur Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Chester Alan Arthur II

Date	Event
1864, July 25	Born, New York, N.Y.
1885	Graduated, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J.
1887	Sailed for Europe
1900	Married Myra Fithian Andrews (divorced 1927) Moved to Colorado Springs, Colo.
1901	Birth of Chester Alan Arthur (1901-1972)

1934 Married Rowena Dashwood Graves
1937, July 18 Died, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Chester Alan Arthur III

Date	Event
1901, Mar. 21	Born, Colorado Springs, Colo.
1920-1922	Attended Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1922	Married Charlotte Wilson (divorced 1932) Served as Secretary to Irish Republican delegation in Lausanne, Switzerland
1922-1924	Lived in Ireland
1931	Moved to Oceano, Calif.
1931-1934	Founded commune near Pismo Beach, Calif.
1933-1934	Founded <i>Dune Forum</i> and published six issues
1934	Joined Utopian Society
1935	Married Esther Murphy Strachey (divorced 1961)
1940-1941	Secretary, Democratic State Central Committee of California
1949-1951	Taught at San Quentin prison, Calif.
1952	Graduated, San Francisco State College, San Francisco, Calif.
1962	Published <i>The Circle of Sex</i> . San Francisco: Pangraphic Press
1965	Married Ellen Janson
1966	Published enlarged edition of <i>The Circle of Sex</i> . New Hyde Park, N.Y.: University Books
1972, Apr. 28	Died, San Francisco, Calif.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Arthur family span the years 1817 to 1972, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1874-1972. Although the collection consists largely of the papers of Chester Alan Arthur II (1864-1937) and Chester Alan Arthur III (1901-1972), it includes papers of President Chester Alan Arthur's sister, Malvina Ann Arthur Haynesworth; his brother, William A. Arthur, Jr.; Chester Alan Arthur II's first wife, Myra Fithian Andrews; his sister, Ellen Arthur Pinkerton; Chester Alan Arthur III's first wife, Charlotte Wilson Arthur, and his second wife, Esther Murphy Strachey Arthur. Other members of the Arthur Andrews, and Fithian families are also represented in the collection. The papers are organized in ten series: [Chester Alan Arthur II Papers](#), [Myra Fithian Andrews Arthur Papers](#), [Ellen Arthur Pinkerton Papers](#), [Chester Alan Arthur III Papers](#), [Malvina Ann Arthur Haynesworth Papers](#), [William A. Arthur, Jr., Papers](#), [Andrews Family Papers](#), [Fithian Family Papers](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

After the death of Chester Alan Arthur (1829-1886), Chester Alan Arthur II withdrew from Columbia University School of Law and sailed for Europe where he remained for over a decade. His papers for this period reveal his interest in women, horses, and cuisine. His correspondence abounds with letters from female admirers, and his diaries, scrapbooks, and general correspondence disclose his frequent participation in driving horse-drawn coaches through the French countryside. In 1897, Alan ("A-lan," pronounced as "plan"), as he liked to be called, unsuccessfully sought appointment as United States ambassador to the Netherlands. His marriage in 1900 to Myra Fithian Andrews raised his family's hopes that he would now choose a vocation or a profession, but he preferred to live on income from investments. He belonged to clubs in England, France, New York, California, and Colorado and mingled with the social elite of two continents. He maintained a home in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where for several years he was the major stockholder in a company owning the Trinchera Estate, a 250,000 acre ranch. The company cut timber, raised cattle, mined for gold, and established a game park reserve for the preservation of bison, elk, antelope, and other rare game animals.

Chester Alan Arthur III was more interested in social and political causes than in elegant living. During the 1920s, as his correspondence documents, he joined the Irish Republican Movement. For four years, in Ireland, Paris, and New York, he contributed his services. During the years 1931-1934, under the adopted ancestral name of Gavin Arthur, he organized in the dunes near Pismo Beach, California, a commune devoted to art and literature. He founded a magazine entitled *Dune*

Forum, designed to establish communication between the intellectuals and the masses; six issues of *Dune Forum* were published.

In 1934, he joined the Utopian Society of America, and for several years thereafter he worked in its behalf. His correspondence for this period includes letters from Upton Sinclair and Herbert Agar. In the late 1930's Arthur became interested in party politics. In 1940, he accepted the post of secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee of California, but in 1941, convinced that the party had betrayed his principles, he resigned.

According to autobiographical manuscripts in the papers, he served in the United States Army and the merchant marine during World War II. After the war, he lived in New York City, where he sold books, tutored, and drew unemployment compensation. In 1949 he went to California and for a time found employment as a teacher-counselor in the state prison at San Quentin. During the 1950s he sustained himself by selling newspapers on the streets of San Francisco. Feeling handicapped by his lack of a formal education, he earned a bachelor's degree at San Francisco State College. Ultimately he became a freelance writer, a professional astrologer, and a student of the occult and of sexology.

Throughout his life, Arthur cultivated a wide variety of people, including political leaders, writers, entertainers, sexologists, and social misfits and outcasts. He was married successively to Charlotte Wilson, a dancer who was also a writer; Esther Murphy Strachey, an expatriate intellectual, the sister of Gerald Murphy, who had formerly been married to John Strachey, a leader of the British Labor Party; and, in his last years, to Ellen Janson, a longtime friend who had helped him launch *Dune Forum*. He wrote poetry and fiction for which he apparently found no market and began philosophical and historical works that he never completed. In 1962, he published *The Circle of Sex*, a study of male and female sexuality; in 1966, he published a revised and enlarged edition. Portions of the manuscript of the book and four containers of other writings are in his papers.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- [Chester Alan Arthur II Papers, 1874-1937](#)
- [Myra Fithian Andrews Arthur Papers, 1882-1935](#)
- [Ellen Arthur Pinkerton Papers, 1879-1914](#)
- [Chester Alan Arthur III Papers, 1853-1972](#)
- [Malvina Ann Arthur Haynesworth Papers, 1853-1869](#)
- [William A. Arthur, Jr., Papers, 1853-1914](#)
- [Andrews Family Papers, 1903-1957](#)
- [Fithian Family Papers, 1882-1960](#)
- [Miscellany, 1817-1967](#)
- [Oversize, 1817-1971](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-17	<u>Chester Alan Arthur II Papers, 1874-1937</u>
BOX 1-2	<u>Diaries, 1887-1913</u> Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3-5	<u>Family Correspondence, 1877-1937</u> Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 6-11	<u>General Correspondence, 1874-1935</u> Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 12-13	<u>Financial Papers, 1882-1937</u> Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 14-17	<u>Miscellany</u> Arranged by type of material.
BOX 18-29	<u>Myra Fithian Andrews Arthur Papers, 1882-1935</u>
BOX 18-20	<u>Diaries, 1902-1935</u> Arranged chronologically.
BOX 21-26	<u>Family Correspondence, 1891-1935</u> Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 27-29	<u>General Correspondence, 1882-1935</u> Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 29	<u>Miscellany</u> Address books.
BOX 30	<u>Ellen Arthur Pinkerton Papers, 1879-1914</u> Family correspondence. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 31-67	<u>Chester Alan Arthur III Papers, 1853-1972</u>
BOX 31-32	<u>Diaries, 1900-1966</u> Arranged chronologically by decade.
BOX 33-35	<u>Family Correspondence, 1904-1971</u> Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 36-50	<u>General Correspondence, 1909-1972</u> Arranged chronologically by month.

- BOX 51** **Politics, 1936-1942**
Primarily correspondence.
Arranged chronologically by month.
- BOX 51** **Charlotte Wilson Arthur, 1921-1966**
Correspondence and writings.
Correspondence arranged chronologically by month.
- BOX 52** **Esther Murphy Arthur, 1924-1961**
Correspondence and cancelled checks.
Correspondence arranged chronologically by month
- BOX 53** **Edith L. DeSavary, 1924-1962**
Correspondence.
Arranged chronologically by month.
- BOX 53-57** **Writings, 1916-1972**
Arranged chronologically with major titles alphabetically at end.
- BOX 58-67** **Miscellany, 1853-1972**
Arranged by type of material.
- BOX 68** **Malvina Ann Arthur Haynesworth Papers, 1853-1869**
Diaries.
Arranged chronologically.
- BOX 68-69** **William A. Arthur, Jr., Papers, 1853-1914**
Diaries, correspondence, military papers, and miscellany.
Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
- BOX 69** **Andrews Family Papers, 1903-1957**
Correspondence and miscellany, including writings of Loring Andrews.
Correspondence arranged chronologically.
- BOX 70** **Fithian Family Papers, 1882-1960**
Correspondence.
Arranged chronologically
- BOX 71-75** **Miscellany, 1817-1967**
Printed matter and scrapbooks.
Arranged by type of material.
- BOX OV 1-OV 2** **Oversize, 1817-1971**
Account book, guest book, literary notes, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous oversize material
relating mainly to Chester Alan Arthur, II.
Arranged by type of material

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-17	Chester Alan Arthur II Papers, 1874-1937
BOX 1-2	Diaries, 1887-1913 Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1887-1890 (3 folders)
BOX 2	1891-1913 (5 folders)
BOX 3-5	Family Correspondence, 1877-1937 Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 3	1877-Sept. 1897 (6 folders)
BOX 4	Oct. 1897-Oct. 1907 (7 folders)
BOX 5	Nov. 1907-Dec. 1911
BOX 5	1912-1937, undated (7 folders)
BOX 6-11	General Correspondence, 1874-1935 Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 6	1874-Dec. 1893 (6 folders)
BOX 7	Jan. 1894-Feb. 1898 (4 folders)
BOX 8	Mar. 1898-1907 (6 folders)
BOX 9	1908-1914 (4 folders)
BOX 10	Jan. 1915-1935 (5 folders)
BOX 11	Undated (4 folders)
BOX 12-13	Financial Papers, 1882-1937 Arranged chronologically by year.
BOX 12	1882-1905 (3 folders)
BOX 13	1906-1937, undated (4 folders)

Chester Alan Arthur II Papers, 1874-1937

Container

Contents

BOX 14-17	Miscellany Arranged by type of material.
BOX 14	Address books
BOX 14	Calling cards
BOX 14	Fragments (2 folders)
BOX 15	(1 folders)
BOX 15	Invitations (3 folders)
BOX 16	Legal papers
BOX 16	Lists
BOX 16	Menus
BOX 16	Newspaper clippings
BOX 16	Notebooks
BOX 17	Political material
BOX 17	Programs
BOX 17	Related correspondence
BOX 17	Travels and itineraries
BOX 17	Writings
BOX 18-29	Myra Fithian Andrews Arthur Papers, 1882-1935
BOX 18-20	Diaries, 1902-1935 Arranged chronologically.
BOX 18	1902-1916 (5 folders)
BOX 19	1917-1927 (5 folders)
BOX 20	1928-1935 (4 folders)
BOX 21-26	Family Correspondence, 1891-1935 Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 21	1891-June 1911 (5 folders)
BOX 22	July 1911-1919 (5 folders)
BOX 23	1920-June 1923 (4 folders)
BOX 24	July 1923-June 1928 (4 folders)
BOX 25	July 1928-1931 (4 folders)

Myra Fithian Andrews Arthur Papers, 1882-1935

Container	Contents
BOX 26	1932-1935, undated (4 folders)
BOX 27-29	General Correspondence, 1882-1935 Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 27	Apr. 1882-1919 (5 folders)
BOX 28	1920-1930 (6 folders)
BOX 29	1931-1935, undated (3 folders)
BOX 29	Miscellany Address books.
BOX 29	Address books
BOX 30	Ellen Arthur Pinkerton Papers, 1879-1914 Family correspondence. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 30	Family correspondence.
BOX 31-67	Chester Alan Arthur III Papers, 1853-1972
BOX 31-32	Diaries, 1900-1966 Arranged chronologically by decade.
BOX 31	1900-1929 (3 folders)
BOX 32	1930-1966 (3 folders)
BOX 33-35	Family Correspondence, 1904-1971 Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 33	Nov. 1904-1925 (5 folders)
BOX 34	1926-1937 (5 folders)
BOX 35	1938-1971, undated (5 folders)
BOX 36-50	General Correspondence, 1909-1972 Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 36	June 1909-1922 (5 folders)

Chester Alan Arthur III Papers, 1853-1972

Container	Contents
BOX 37	1923-Sept. 1926 (4 folders)
BOX 38	Oct. 1926-1929 (4 folders)
BOX 39	1930-Dec. 1933 (4 folders)
BOX 40	Jan. 1934-1935 (4 folders)
BOX 41	1936-1937 (4 folders)
BOX 42	Jan.-June 1939 (4 folders)
BOX 43	July 1939-1942 (5 folders)
BOX 44	Jan. 1943-1946 (4 folders)
BOX 45	1947-1959 (4 folders)
BOX 46	1960-1963 (5 folders)
BOX 47	1964-1966 (3 folders)
BOX 48	1967-1969 (3 folders)
BOX 49	1970-1972, undated (4 folders)
BOX 50	Undated (4 folder)
BOX 51	Politics, 1936-1942 Primarily correspondence. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 51	1936-1942, undated (2 folders)
BOX 51	Charlotte Wilson Arthur, 1921-1966 Correspondence and writings. Correspondence arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 51	Correspondence, 1920-1966, undated (3 folders)
BOX 51	Writings
BOX 52	Esther Murphy Arthur, 1924-1961 Correspondence and cancelled checks. Correspondence arranged chronologically by month
BOX 52	Correspondence, 1929-1961, undated (4 folders)

Chester Alan Arthur III Papers, 1853-1972

Container	Contents
BOX 52	Canceled checks, 1924-1929
BOX 53	Edith L. DeSavary, 1924-1962 Correspondence. Arranged chronologically by month.
BOX 53	Correspondence, 1946-1962, undated (2 folders)
BOX 53-57	Writings, 1916-1972 Arranged chronologically with major titles alphabetically at end.
BOX 53	Chronological file
BOX 53	1916-1930s (3 folders)
BOX 54	1940s-1970s (5 folders)
BOX 55	Undated (3 folders)
BOX 55	Alphabetical file
BOX 55	"Aspirations at Thirty"
BOX 55	Astrology
BOX 56	<i>The Circle of Sex</i>
BOX 56	"Full Circle" (3 folders)
BOX 57	(1 folder)
BOX 57	"Notes on Freedom"
BOX 57	Poetry
BOX 57	"Priscilla" (2 folders)
BOX 57	Fragments
BOX 58-67	Miscellany, 1853-1972 Arranged by type of material.
BOX 58	Address books (3 folders)
BOX 58	Astrology
BOX 58	Books, <i>The Voice of the Silence and the New Testament</i>
BOX 59	Calling cards
BOX 59	Correspondence (copies), President Chester A. Arthur (2 folders)
BOX 59	Correspondence related to Chester Alan Arthur III
BOX 59	1922-1970
BOX 59	Undated
BOX 59	Drawings
BOX 60	Financial papers, 1930-1971
BOX 60	Fragments

Chester Alan Arthur III Papers, 1853-1972

Container	Contents
BOX 60	1912-1972 (3 folders)
BOX 61	Undated (5 folders)
BOX 62	Greeting cards (3 folders)
BOX 62	Invitations and announcements
BOX 63	Legal papers
BOX 63	List of dates copied from notebook courses
BOX 63	Memorabilia, Ireland, 1920s
BOX 63	Newspaper clippings (3 folders)
BOX 64	(2 folders)
BOX 64	Notes relating to "Full Circle"
BOX 64	Pamphlets, <i>The Circle of Sex</i>
BOX 64	"People I Have Known"
BOX 64	Programs (1 folder)
BOX 65	(4 folders)
BOX 66	Reeves, Thomas C., manuscript copies of articles
BOX 66	San Quentin prison, San Quentin, Calif.
BOX 66	Typescript of Ellen Herndon Arthur correspondence, 1877-1879
BOX 66	Writings by others (4 folders)
BOX 67	Copies of family letters and notes, 1853-1933 (2 folders)
BOX 67	<i>How a British Subject Became President of the United States</i> (1884), by A. P. Hinman (heavily annotated)
BOX 68	Malvina Ann Arthur Haynesworth Papers, 1853-1869 Diaries. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 68	Diaries, originals and typescripts
BOX 68	1853
BOX 68	1869 (2 copies)
BOX 68-69	William A. Arthur, Jr., Papers, 1853-1914 Diaries, correspondence, military papers, and miscellany. Arranged by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 68	Diaries, 1858-1881 (4 folders)
BOX 69	Correspondence
BOX 69	1853-1914 (2 folders)
BOX 69	Copies (1843-1917)
BOX 69	Military papers, 1862-1891 (2 folders)

William A. Arthur, Jr., Papers, 1853-1914

Container	Contents
BOX 69	Miscellany (2 folders)
BOX 69	Andrews Family Papers, 1903-1957 Correspondence and miscellany, including writings of Loring Andrews. Correspondence arranged chronologically.
BOX 69	Correspondence
BOX 69	Miscellany
BOX 70	Fithian Family Papers, 1882-1960 Correspondence. Arranged chronologically
BOX 70	Correspondence, 1882-1960, undated (3 folders)
BOX 71-75	Miscellany, 1817-1967 Printed matter and scrapbooks. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 71	Printed matter
BOX 71	Books (4 folders)
BOX 72	Books and journals (2 folders)
BOX 73	Books
BOX 73	Postcards, clippings, and related items removed from notebook covers
BOX 74	Scrapbooks
BOX 74	Chester Alan Arthur II
BOX 74	1876-1883, undated
BOX 74	1886-1957
BOX 75	Andrews, Loring, 1930
BOX 75	Arthur, Alan Arthur, III
BOX 75	1897-1916, coaching clippings
BOX 75	1956
BOX 75	1960-1961
BOX 75	Connolly, R. B., 1856
BOX OV 1-OV 2	Oversize, 1817-1971 Account book, guest book, literary notes, scrapbooks, and miscellaneous oversize material relating mainly to Chester Alan Arthur, II. Arranged by type of material
BOX OV 1	Account book, 1817-1846, with literary notes by Chester Alan Arthur III, 1965-1967
BOX OV 1	Guestbook, Myra Arthur, 1910-1969
BOX OV 2	Scrapbooks, Chester Alan Arthur III
BOX OV 2	1960-1971, undated

Oversize, 1817-1971

Container

Contents

BOX OV 2

Undated