

Samuel Whittemore Boggs Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2012

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

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Prepared by Audrey M. Cahill, W. Roberts, and A. Thompson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2012

Collection Summary

Title: Samuel Whittemore Boggs Papers

Span Dates: 1912-1954

ID No.: MSS13094

Creator: Boggs, Samuel Whittemore, 1889-1954

Extent: 7,000 items

Extent: 31 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 29 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78013094>

Summary: Geographer, inventor, and cartographer. Correspondence, writings, subject files, research data, printed matter, and other material relating mainly to Boggs's geographic studies and to his inventions and research interests.

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

Boggs, Samuel Whittemore, 1889-1954.

Subjects

Boundaries.

Cartography--Instruments.

Cartography.

Geography.

International relations.

Map projection.

Maps.

Missions.

Regionalism.

Traffic signs and signals.

Water boundaries.

Occupations

Authors.

Cartographers.

Geographers.

Inventors.

Provenance

The papers of Samuel Whittemore Boggs, geographer, inventor and cartographer, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife in 1955, with an additional gift of Dorothy C. Novak, professional associate of Boggs, in 1967.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1956 and expanded in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2012.

Additional Guides

A note on these papers appeared in the Library of Congress *Information Bulletin* (April 30, 1956).

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Samuel Whittemore Boggs in the collections of papers in the Library of Congress is dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Samuel Boggs 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, Samuel Whittemore Boggs Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1899, 2 Mar.	Born, Coolidge, Kans.
1909	B.L., Berea College, Berea, Ky.
1909-1912	Private secretary to president, Berea College, Berea, Ky.
1912-1913	Student, Yale Divinity School, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
1913-1914	Secretarial work, Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, Neb.
1914-1919	Secretarial and executive work for International Committee of YMCA and other organizations, New York
1916	Married Amy Burt Bridgeman
1916-1924	Geographical research, map compilation, editor, American Book Co., including maps for <i>World Missionary Atlas</i> , 1921-1924
1924	M.A. in geography, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1924-1954	Geographer, Department of State
1939-1942	Lecturer, Columbia University, New York, N.Y.
1945-1946	Lecturer, American University, Washington, D.C.
1954	Died

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Samuel Whittemore Boggs (1889-1954) span the years 1912-1954. Consisting of correspondence, drafts of articles, notes, maps, printed matter, and clippings, the collection focuses on Boggs's diverse geographical interests. Included are files of geographic data on various regions of the world, reports of missionary activity, material relating to Boggs's mapping inventions, files for proposed studies, and preparatory materials for his lectures, speeches, and publications. The collection is organized into seven series: [Correspondence](#), [Professional File](#), [Writings File](#), [Lectures](#), [Subject File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#).

Topics of significance include boundary delimitation, regionalism, global relations, and water boundaries. Featured are Boggs's pioneering work as inventor of an eumorphic equal-area map projection, graphic traffic signals, and a universal graphic charting instrument. Also in the papers are notes on courses given at Columbia University.

Boggs's filing system was retained in parts of the collection, including a "Regions of the World" section in the [Subject File](#) series. A guide to the section is in the first folder of the material.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in seven series:

- [Correspondence, 1916-1954](#)
- [Professional File, 1927-1953](#)
- [Writings File, 1931-1954](#)
- [Lectures, 1938-1942](#)
- [Subject File, 1915-1954](#)
- [Miscellany, 1912-1945](#)
- [Oversize, 1932](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Correspondence, 1916-1954</u></p> <p>Special correspondence of letters to and from Boggs as geographer with the State Department and general correspondence.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically within the two groups.</p>
BOX 3-18	<p><u>Professional File, 1927-1953</u></p> <p>Material related to professional projects during the various phases of Boggs's career.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 19-23	<p><u>Writings File, 1931-1954</u></p> <p>Articles, books, and speeches.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by title.</p>
BOX 23-24	<p><u>Lectures, 1938-1942</u></p> <p>Course notes of lecture series given at Columbia University.</p> <p>Arranged in numbered sequence as received from the donor, with a file of correspondence at the beginning and miscellany at the end.</p>
BOX 25-30	<p><u>Subject File, 1915-1954</u></p> <p>Subject files related to professional interests, but of an avocational nature.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 31	<p><u>Miscellany, 1912-1945</u></p> <p>Charts and maps, photographs, biographical material, printed matter, and notes.</p> <p>Arranged by type of material.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize, 1932</u></p> <p>Charts and maps.</p> <p>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Correspondence, 1916-1954 Special correspondence of letters to and from Boggs as geographer with the State Department and general correspondence. Arranged alphabetically within the two groups.
BOX 1	Special Correspondence, State Department "A-B" miscellaneous "C" miscellaneous "D-G" miscellaneous "H" miscellaneous "J-L" miscellaneous Library of Congress "M-P" miscellaneous "R-S" miscellaneous "T-Z" miscellaneous
BOX 2	General Correspondence "A-B" miscellaneous Beach, Harlan P. "C-E" miscellaneous "F-G" miscellaneous "H-J" miscellaneous "K-P" miscellaneous "R-S" miscellaneous St. John, Burton "T-W" miscellaneous Washburn, H. M. "Z" miscellaneous
BOX 3-18	Professional File, 1927-1953 Material related to professional projects during the various phases of Boggs's career. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
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Professional File, 1927-1953

Container

Contents

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	Search for Support (except the American Philosophical Society), Project
	State Department, Paper
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	Orders for Drafting Instrument
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BOX 5	(5 folders)
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	Accomplishments, Analytics, Facsimiles, Citations
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	Examples
	Rules, etc.
	Classification, Theory, etc.
	Consolidation of Book and Map Catalog
	Definitions
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	Photostat Sheets, Cards Selected from American Geographical Society Research, Catalog for Department of State and Office of the Coordinator, Nov. 1941
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Professional File, 1927-1953

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BOX 9	Prime Meridians "Master Catalog" in GE [Department of State, Office of the Geographer] Map Cataloging in Other Libraries 1924-1929 Post 1930 Map Scales, used in earlier centuries, chiefly Lists of Packages [as packed by donor] Association of American Geographers Committee Report 30 Dec. 1936 Related Material Manual Gifts, Letters and Replies, 1932
BOX 10	Map Manual Requests, Current, 1934-1941 Correspondence re Publishing, 1932-1943 Conferences with Library of Congress, Division of Maps, 1931-1936 American Library Association Map Catalog Code Revision, 1939 Exhibit of American Library Association Technique, Experimental Cards Arranged by Author, by Area, 1939 Experimental Material, Data from Maps, circa 1930-1931 Map Cataloging General Classed Catalog Developments in Department of State, before 1930 Map Manual Archives
BOX 11	General Correspondence, 1932-1945 Samuel Whittemore Boggs, Material Loans, 1932-1945 Preface and Introduction Definitions Material to Be Used Old Material Map Projections, Appendix K Map Scale
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BOX 13	Copy Sent to Press, 1945	
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	SLA Correspondence re Publishing, etc., 1944-1945	
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	Printed, Oct.-Nov. 1945 [?]	
	Mimeographed by Boggs and Dorothy C. Lewis	
	Revisions and Corrections to Manual	
	Abridged Area Classification	
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	New Subjects for Manual, Miscellaneous	
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	Manual	
	Typed Copy, 28 Apr. 1931, Annotated, Jan. 1932	
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	Jan. 1932, with Proposed Changes Insert, 4 Jan. 1935 (2 folders)	
	Apr. 1938, with Note, 10 Apr. 1945	
	Date Not Shown	
	"Department of State. Divisions of Publication, Geographic Section. Rules for Map Cataloguing" (2 copies)	
	Map Cataloging, Department of State 1930-1931	
	1943, on Samples, etc., for Explaining Technique	
	BOX 15	Area Classification (2 folders)
		Eumorphic Equal-Area Map Projection Formulas & Computations, 1927-1953
General Drafting Co., Inc., 1928-1930		
Geographic and Mapping Projects for Unesco, 1947		
"Geographic and Other Scientific Techniques for Political Science"		
"Geographic Encyclopedia of the World," in English		
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		Geographic Projects for the American Council of Learned Societies, 1947-1949
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	"Inventory: The Earth and Its Tenants" (4 folders)	
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Professional File, 1927-1953

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BOX 22	(6 folders) "Library Classification and Cataloging of Geographic Material" "Mapping the Changing World" "Notes on Map Making"
BOX 23	"Physiography of the Roof of Earth" "A Plan for American Participation of Uninterrupted International Peace" "Problems of Water-Boundary Definition" "Seasonal Variations in Daylight, Twilight, and Darkness" Speeches and Talks, 1945-1945, Notes

Writings File, 1931-1954

Container

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"Taking It for Granted," circa 1950, Notes

BOX 23-24

Lectures, 1938-1942

Course notes of lecture series given at Columbia University.

Arranged in numbered sequence as received from the donor, with a file of correspondence at the beginning and miscellany at the end.

Columbia University, 1939-1942

Boundaries

* Correspondence, 1938-1939

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2. Classification and Terminology

3. U.S.-Interstate

(2 folders)

4. Latin America

5. European Boundary Functions

6. Europe

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9. Water

* International

* Miscellany

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BOX 25-30

Subject File, 1915-1954

Subject files related to professional interests, but of an avocational nature.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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American Geographic Society

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Offshore Water Boundary Delimitation

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Regions of the World

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Subject File, 1915-1954

Container

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	050 Geographical Publications
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	115 Map Projections
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	750 Geography's Debt to Missions
	801 History of Religions
	811 Christian Missions, Administrative Problems
	812 Missionary Surveys
	865 Mohammedanism
	Ab Pacific Basin
	000 General Information
	B Eastern Hemisphere
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	Dgb Egypt
	000 General Information
	E Asia
	000 General Information
	Ecb Armenia
	000 General Information
	Ej India
	000 General Information
	En Near East (Asiatic)
	151 Distribution of Population, Geographic Factors
	Es Siberia
	000 General Information
	Ga Austria
	000 General Information
	Gd Czechoslovakia
	000 General Information
	Gf Finland
	000 General Information

Subject File, 1915-1954

Container

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	Gh Germany
	000 General Information
	Ghms Germany (Upper Silesia)
	000 General Information
	Gi Greece
	000 General Information
	Gj Hungary
	000 General Information
	Gk Italy
	000 General Information
	Gl Jugoslavia
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	000 General Information
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	Miscellany
BOX 31	Miscellany, 1912-1945
	Charts and maps, photographs, biographical material, printed matter, and notes. Arranged by type of material.
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	Geography and Political Relations Course, Notes, circa 1948
	M.A. Thesis, Notes, 1923-1924
	Notebook, Undergraduate Course: Experimental Psychology, 1912-1913
	Photographs
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	Charts and maps. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

Oversize, 1932

Container

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BOX OV 1

Miscellany

Charts and Maps, 1932, undated (Container 31)