

Louis Skidmore Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82075892>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013072>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2013
Revised 2023 August

Collection Summary

Title: Louis Skidmore Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1908-1976

ID No.: MSS75892

Creator: Skidmore, Louis, 1897-1962

Extent: 2,000 items

Extent: 4 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82075892>

Summary: Architect. Correspondence, diaries, subject files, family papers, and other papers relating chiefly to Skidmore's career as an architect.

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

Emerson, William Ralph, 1833-1917.

Moses, Robert, 1888-1981.

Skidmore family.

Skidmore, Louis, 1897-1962.

Organizations

American Institute of Architects.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Subjects

Architectural firms.

Architecture--Societies, etc.

Architecture.

Occupations

Architects.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Louis Skidmore, architect, were given to the Library of Congress by his wife, Eloise Owings Skidmore, in 1978.

Processing History

The papers of Louis Skidmore were processed in 1984 by Michael McElderry. The finding aid was revised in 2012. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Transfers

Architectural drawings, photographs, sketches, oil paintings, and postal cards have been transferred to the Library's Pints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Louis Skidmore is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Louis Skidmore 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, Louis Skidmore Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1897, Apr. 8	Born, Lawrenceburg, Ind.
1911-1915	Attended Manual Training High School, Peoria, Ill.
1915-1917	Studied at Bradley Polytechnical Institute, Peoria, Ill.
1915-1919	Employed chiefly at Avery Tractor Co., Peoria, Ill.
1918-1919	Served in U.S. Army
1919-1920	Instructor in cabinet and pattern making, Pullman Free School of Manual Training, Chicago, Ill.
1920	Architectural designer with Kruckemeyer and Strong, Cincinnati, Ohio
1921-1923	Studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.
1924-1926	Architectural designer, Maginnis and Walsh, Boston, Mass.
1926-1928	Rotch Traveling Fellowship
1929-1932	Chief of design, Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
1930	Married Eloise Owings
1935	Opened architectural office of Skidmore & Owings, Chicago, Ill.
1936-1937	Director of the School of Architecture, Armour Institute, Chicago, Ill.
1938	Adviser to New York's World Fair, New York, N.Y.
1962, Sept. 27	Died, Winter Haven, Fla.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Louis Skidmore (1897-1962) span the years 1908-1976 and consist of correspondence, diaries, subject files, family papers, and other papers relating chiefly to Skidmore's career as an architect. Included in the collection is material pertaining to William Ralph Emerson, Robert Moses, the American Institute of Architects, and the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Arrangement of the Papers

The papers are organized by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Diaries
BOX 1	1908, Skidmore's grandmother
BOX 1	1918, World War I
BOX 1	1926, Rotch Traveling Fellowship (2 vols.)
BOX 1	Workbook, high school, 1913-1914
BOX 2	Family correspondence, 1918
BOX 2	General correspondence, 1916-1976, undated (7 folders)
BOX 2	Letters of condolence, 1962-1963 (5 folders)
BOX 2	List of friends to be notified
BOX 3	Subject files
BOX 3	American Institute of Architects Gold Medal of Honor (2 folders)
BOX 3	1949
BOX 3	1957
BOX 3	Emerson, William, 1957-1962, undated (3 folders)
BOX 3	Moses, Robert, 1947-1960
BOX 3	Poems (2 folders)
BOX 3	Boykin
BOX 3	Winsor
BOX 3	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1949-1962
BOX 3	"Tudor Homes in England," 1928
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Awards and certificates <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 4	Bills and receipts
BOX 4	Biographical material
BOX 4	Birth certificate copy
BOX 4	Business cards (2 folders)
BOX 4	Century of Progress International Exposition, Chicago, Ill, 1933-1935
BOX 4	Rotch Fellowship travels, 1927-1928
BOX 4	Conquest of heart disease
BOX 4	Donations in memory of Skidmore
BOX 4	Hotels, 1927-1928
BOX 4	Invitations
BOX 4	Memorial tribute
BOX 4	Military records, 1918-1919

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 4	Passports, 1928-1952
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Awards and certificates (Container 4)