Collection Summary

Title: Raoul Heilbronner Papers
Span Dates: 1887-1952
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1887-1914)
ID No.: MSS25650
Creator: Heilbronner, Raoul
Extent: 9,000 items
Extent: 9 containers
Extent: 3.4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in French, with English, German, and Italian
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78025650

Summary: German-born antique dealer, of Paris, France, who specialized in Gothic and Renaissance art, furniture, tapestries and statues and supplied many nineteenth and early twentieth century American collectors. Correspondence; letterbooks; business records including invoices, inventories, notebooks, address book, records of purchases and sales, deposits, and consignments; and historical notes and clippings relating to particular objects.

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
Barnard, George Grey, 1863-1938.
Bertron, Samuel R., 1865-1938.
Blair, Mary Anne Italia Mitchell, 1855-
Bradley, Edson.
Crocker, Charles T. (Charles Templeton), 1884-1948.
Harriman, Mary Williamson, 1851-1932.
Heilbronner, Raoul.
Klapp, Elinor Evans, 1848-1916.
Palmer, Bertha Honoré, 1849-1918.
Ryan, Thomas Fortune, 1851-1928.
Walters, Henry, 1848-1931.

Subjects
Antiques.
Art, Gothic.
Art, Renaissance.
Art--Collectors and collecting.
Furniture, Gothic.
Furniture, Renaissance.
Sculpture, Gothic.
Sculpture, Renaissance.
Tapestry, Gothic.
Tapestry, Renaissance.

Occupations
Antique dealers.
Provenance
The papers of Raoul Heilbronner, antique dealer, were given to the Library of Congress through the offices of Robert Garrett of Baltimore, Md., in 1952, by Tudor Wilkinson, Paris, France. Wilkinson had purchased the material at a public auction in the early 1920s.

Processing History
The papers of Raoul Heilbronner were processed in 1954. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Additional Guides
The papers of Raoul Heilbronner have been described in the Library of Congress Information Bulletin 11, no. 27 (June 30, 1952) and in the Library of Congress Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions 10, no. 3 (May 1953).

Transfers
Photographs, drawings, fine prints, and blueprints were transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Raoul Heilbronner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Raoul Heilbronner 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, Raoul Heilbronner Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note
Raoul Heilbronner, a prominent antiquaire of the late nineteenth century and during the first decade of the twentieth, came to France as a German soldier during the Franco-Prussian War and remained in Paris. His only son was born there and his two daughters married Frenchmen who also were antiquaires.

Heilbronner started his business before 1887 and specialized in Gothic and Renaissance objects, furniture, tapestries, and statues. Heilbronner’s principal clients seem to have been a number of the great amateur American collectors of the period, as well as dealers here. For this reason, especially, the papers are important for the history of art in America. Heilbronner furnished art objects of high value for the private collections of William Randolph Hearst, Mary A. I. Mitchell Blair, wife of C. J. Blair, of Chicago, and others.

Heilbronner was a German citizen whose collection was confiscated and later sold at public auction after he was designated an enemy alien by the French government during World War I.
Few exact details of Heilbronner’s life have been determined. The date of his death has not been ascertained.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Raoul Heilbronner span the years 1887-1952, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1887-1914. The collection consists of correspondence; letterbooks; business records including invoices, inventories, notebooks, address book, records of purchases and sales, deposits, and consignments; and historical notes and clippings relating to particular art objects. The papers are organized into four series: Letterpress Books, Business Records, Business Correspondence and Records, and Miscellany.


**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in four series:

- Letterpress Books, 1911-1914
- Business Records, 1887-1914
- Business Correspondence and Records, circa 1903-1914
- Miscellany, 1910-1952
### Description of Series

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<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1-2</td>
<td><strong>Letterpress Books, 1911-1914</strong></td>
<td>Copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically. An index is in each volume.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3-6</td>
<td><strong>Business Records, 1887-1914</strong></td>
<td>Bills, inventories, records of sales, and related material, some in bound volumes, some unbound. Arranged by type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7-9</td>
<td><strong>Business Correspondence and Records, circa 1903-1914</strong></td>
<td>Letters sent and received. Arranged by type of material or name of correspondent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 9</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1910-1952</strong></td>
<td>Miscellaneous items mainly not part of Heilbronner business records. No arrangement.</td>
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## Container List

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<thead>
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<th>Contents</th>
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| BOX 1-2   | **Letterpress Books, 1911-1914**  
Copies of letters sent.  
Arranged chronologically. An index is in each volume. |
| BOX 1     | 15 June 1911-24 June 1912 |
| BOX 1     | 24 June 1912-9 May 1913 |
| BOX 1     | May 1913-Apr. 1914 |
| BOX 2     | 4 Apr. 1914-1 Oct. 1914 |
| BOX 2     | To E. Glaenzer & Co. |
| BOX 2     | 24 Oct. 1910-22 Apr. 1914 |
| BOX 2     | Address book |
| BOX 3-6   | **Business Records, 1887-1914**  
Bills, inventories, records of sales, and related material, some in bound volumes, some unbound.  
Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 3     | Facts  
| BOX 3     | 11 July 1899-4 Dec. 1906  
| BOX 3     | 25 June 1912-11 Sept. 1914  
| BOX 3     | Inventaire, closed 19 Aug. 1914  
| BOX 3     | Notebook, inventaire  
| BOX 3     | 1908-1912  
| BOX 3     | 1908-1909  
| BOX 4     | Ventes  
| BOX 4     | 1887-1890  
| BOX 4     | 1894-1897  
| BOX 4     | 1899-1903  
| BOX 4     | 1903-1906  
| BOX 4     | 1906-1910  
| BOX 4     | 1909-1913  
| BOX 4     | 1910-1914  
| BOX 5     | Volumes as follows  
| BOX 5     | Achats  
| BOX 5     | 1899-1904  
| BOX 5     | 1904-1906  
| BOX 5     | Achats et ventes, 1907-1908  
| BOX 5     | Ledger  
| BOX 5     | Caisse, 1906-1910  
| BOX 6     | Dépôts  
| BOX 6     | Expeditions  
| BOX 6     | Terrasse, records of |
### Business Records, 1887-1914

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<td>Canettes, records of</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Reparations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Historical notes, consisting of a few letters, notes clippings, etc., and two official documents, in Italian, stamped and signed, attesting a Venetian clock, 30 June 1862 and 9 Dec. 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Factures merchandise</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>1908-1911</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>1908-1913 (alphabetically arranged by name of client)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>1913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### BOX 7-9  Business Correspondence and Records, circa 1903-1914

Letters sent and received.  
Arranged by type of material or name of correspondent.  

| BOX 7 | Miscellaneous letters and lists (chronologically arranged), 1910-1913  |
| BOX 7 | Correspondence (alphabetically arranged by name of clients), 1913  |
| BOX 8 | Mrs. C. J. Blair (Mary Anne Italia Mitchell Blair), factures and correspondence, 1906-1914  |
| BOX 8 | G. Brauer, 1903-1914  |
| BOX 8 | Carrère & Hastings, 1913-1914  |
| BOX 8 | P. W. French & Co., pictures, inventory of stained glass windows, and correspondence  |
| BOX 8 | Eugene Glaenzer & Co., dépôts, comptes, and correspondence  |
| BOX 9 | William Randolph Hearst, bills and correspondence, 1909-1914  |
| BOX 9 | John A. Holms of Glasgow  |
| BOX 9 | Objects à acheter (correspondence about); also pictures and descriptive material  |

#### BOX 9  Miscellany, 1910-1952

Miscellaneous items mainly not part of Heilbronner business records.  
No arrangement.  

| BOX 9 | Miscellaneous items, probably not Heilbronner material, 1910-1952  |